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Govt. to wait for RSS reply on registration

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New norm for Gruha Jyothi re-application

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The Energy Department is planning to link voter ID along with the Aadhaar and RR number of the electricity meters for people to re-apply for the Gruha Jyothi scheme.

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India's rainfall deficit at 35% as monsoon progress stalls

Central India faces 61% deficit as monsoon's first round loses momentum; govt. directs crop-wise contingency plans, puts around 200 districts under priority monitoring, orders weekly reviews

Jacob Koshy
A.M. Jigeesh
NEW DELHI

Over a week past the monsoon's normal arrival date, the rain clouds have yet to reach Mumbai, driving India's nationwide monsoon deficit to 35% as of Tuesday.

The shortfall in rainfall is concentrated in the regions the monsoon has failed to cover – Maharashtra, the Konkan coast, and the adjoining regions of central India – where its northward progress has been stalled for several days.

India Meteorological Department (IMD) statistics show that apart from northwest India, which has received 5% more rain than normal for this time of the year, all other regions are in the red, including east and northeast India (-43%), central India (-61%), and the southern peninsula (-14%).

Hanging clouds

While a monsoon deficit in June is not unusual, it assumes additional significance in a year which has been globally forecast to witness a 'Super El Nino'

Rainfall departures for El Niño years since 2000:

	June	Whole southwest monsoon
2002	+2%	19% below LPA*
2004	+1%	13% below LPA
2009	- 47%	22% below LPA
2014	- 44%	12% below LPA
2015	+14%	14% below LPA
2023	- 8%	6% below LPA

*LPA: Long Period Average

Source: IMD

Contingency plans

Meanwhile, Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, chairing a review of kharif preparations on Tuesday, directed States to identify districts facing low or uneven rainfall and to draw up crop-wise contingency plans, so that affected farmers could be "immediately provided with alternatives, advice, and assistance."

The Union government has placed 150 to 200 districts under priority monitoring, ordered weekly El Niño reviews, and is encouraging a shift towards cotton and pulses.

'Better placed'

Mr. Chouhan has maintained that seed and fertilizer stocks are adequate and that reservoir storage – at 30.4% of capacity in May, against a 25.1% average in previous El Niño years – leaves the country better placed than in earlier seasons with rainfall deficiency.

While a rainfall deficit in June, the first of the monsoon months, is not unusual, it assumes additional significance in a year that forecasters globally have warned will likely be a 'Super El Niño' year.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

World suffers from shortage of trust, PM tells G7 leaders

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

With a message that trust was in short supply globally, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday participated in a session with the Group of Seven (G7) countries and others on "Forging New Partnerships and Rebuilding International Solidarity".

In addition to the G7 and India, other partner countries – Brazil, Egypt, Kenya, South Korea – participated in the talks along with the World Bank and African Development Bank. Mr. Modi met U.S. President Donald Trump for the first time since February 2025 at the session.

Mr. Modi summarised his messages to the gathering on social media. "Mutual trust is the most important strategic asset today. But, sadly, today, the world does not suffer from a shortage of resources... it suffers from a shortage of trust," he wrote on X.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with leaders of G7 members and other countries in Evian, eastern France, on Tuesday. AFP

India has, in recent years, sought to play a leadership role for middle income and poorer countries – the Global South. "Emphasised that the Global South has immense expectations from the world. More than support, it seeks partnership," Mr. Modi wrote, adding that he had highlighted India's efforts in Africa during the G7 session, including its focus on training, water, agriculture, energy and capacity building.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

Modi holds talks with leaders of Canada, U.K., UAE

LONDON
Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday held bilateral meetings with Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer, and the ruler of the UAE, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, on the sidelines of the G7 summit in Evian, France. Mr. Modi said he hoped to accept Mr. Carney's invitation to visit Canada before the year ends, and complete a trade deal before then. » PAGE 12

Over-the-counter sale of cough syrup barred

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Medicinal syrups, including those used to treat coughs, can no longer be bought without a doctor's prescription, according to a government notification issued on Tuesday. This means that over-the-counter sales of these syrups will no longer be allowed.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare notified the change to the Drugs Rules, 1945, which laid out the regulations pertaining to the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

Tuesday's notification directed that the word 'syrups' be removed from the list of items that had been exempted from the provisions of the Act. The rules had earlier specified that "Syrups, lozenges, pills and tablets for cough" would be exempted, meaning that cough lozenges, pills, and tablets will still be available over the counter. The amendment follows a draft notification in December 2025 to which the Centre invited objections and suggestions from stakeholders and the public.

The move comes after fatalities due to cough syrups adulterated with industrial solvents, including the deaths of 24 children in Madhya Pradesh last September. Cough syrups exported from India have been linked to the deaths of more than 140 children in Africa and Central Asia since 2022.

The beautiful game

Global celebration: College students in Kozhikode, Kerala, take part in a fan event for the FIFA World Cup 2026, dressed in jerseys of various football teams and holding the national flags of Brazil, Argentina, Portugal, and other participants of the tournament. PTI

Vijayabaskar quits as MLA, leaves AIADMK

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI/PUDUKOTTAI

In yet another blow to the AIADMK, Viralimalai MLA and former Health Minister C. Vijayabaskar resigned from the Tamil Nadu Assembly and quit the party on Tuesday. He submitted his resignation to Speaker J.C.D. Prabhakar at the Secretariat. The Speaker said in a statement that he had accepted the resignation.

Dr. Vijayabaskar, who has been associated with the AIADMK since his college days, served as the Health Minister between 2013 and 2021 in the Cabinets of Chief Ministers Jayalalithaa, O. Panneerselvam, and Edappadi K. Palaniswami.

Dr. C. Vijayabaskar

He was elected to the Assembly from Pudukkottai in 2001, and from Viralimalai in 2011, 2016, 2021, and 2026. He is the fifth AIADMK MLA to resign from the Assembly after the 2026 election.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

Krishna Byre Gowda takes charge after nudge from party high command, CM

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Minister Krishna Byre Gowda took charge of the Bengaluru Development portfolio on Tuesday, nearly two weeks after being sworn in, stating that his decision followed directions from the Congress high command and Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar.

Mr. Gowda, who was sworn in on June 3, had delayed taking charge, unhappy with the Chief Minister retaining the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) and the Bangalore Metropolitan Region Development Authority (BMRDA), two key planning bodies for the city.

Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda during a meeting of senior officers under the GBA jurisdiction, in Bengaluru on Tuesday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

"I told the Chief Minister and the leadership my opinion that the lack of clarity in who is in charge will come in the way of accountability and result-oriented administration," he said. He added, however, that it was finally the discretion of the Chief Minister.

"I have appealed to the Chief Minister to reconsider his decision. I was of the opinion that it was better to take charge after I got this clarity, but the high command and the Chief Minister told me to take charge and begin work, and that the issue would be resolved eventually. So, I have begun my work," he told mediapersons.

Mr. Gowda said that improving the quality of everyday life of Bengalureans was his top priority. He held his first meeting with top officials under the GBA limits. He reportedly questioned officials over Bengaluru's road quality and asked if road construction was "rocket science" and why we cannot build pothole-free roads.

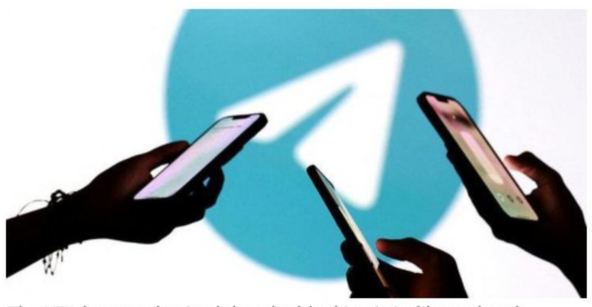
RELATED REPORT ON » PAGE 3

Govt. restricts Telegram messaging app till NEET re-test after request from NTA

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

At the National Testing Agency (NTA)'s request, the Centre is blocking the messaging app Telegram in India until Monday, in what the NTA described as a "response to the organised use of the platform by cheating rackets to defraud candidates appearing for the NEET (UG) 2026 re-examination scheduled on 21 June 2026."

On Tuesday evening, a few hours after the order, at least one telecom operator had already blocked access to the service, and the app's listing was taken down from Google Play and Apple's App Store. This is the first time that a messaging app operating at such a scale is being blocked in India by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, even for a limited period.



The NTA has emphasised that the blocking is 'calibrated and bounded in time,' and that it would be lifted later. REUTERS

The agency said that several Telegram groups were advertising fake test papers for the upcoming exam and defrauding candidates willing to pay for them. The NTA emphasised that this blocking was "calibrated and bounded in time," and that it would be lifted later.

Telegram founder Pavel Durov criticised the move, saying it "punishes" over 15 crore "ordinary Telegram users in India". Banning the app even temporarily, he said, "is a mistake".

"Over the past few weeks, we removed hundreds of channels sharing leaked exam materials... We are also making the 'edited' label more visible to prevent backdating scams." Mr. Durov said. "The leaks just moved to other apps," he added. It is unclear what he was referring to, but the NTA has, through the day, been denying the legitimacy of screenshots purporting to be of the upcoming NEET exam's question paper.

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The concocted Rohit conundrum

SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

If India's think-tank believes that it needs to look beyond the Mumbai batter when it comes to the World Cup, the humane thing will be to let him know; otherwise, just let him be

R. Kaushik

One of the inexplicable but more frenzied universal endeavours is to go to great lengths to install an individual on a pedestal, and then work equally hard in seeking to derive vicarious pleasure by systematically pulling that same individual down. In India, especially, that privilege is reserved for sportspersons in general, and cricketers particularly. No one has been immune to this syndrome, not Jasprit Bumrah or Virat Kohli, not even Sachin Tendulkar or Anil Kumble. So, why should Rohit Sharma be an exception?

Not so long back, Rohit was the toast of the nation. He masterminded a spectacular run at the 2024 T20 World Cup, lighting up the stage with several incisive knocks including in the league stage against Australia and the semifinal against England, as India ended an agonising 11-year wait for an ICC trophy, and a 17-year drought in the flagship event of the shortest format. In March last year, he oversaw another stirring triumph, this time in the desert sands of Dubai, at the Champions Trophy, India finishing the tournament with an all-win record to wrap their hands around the cup for the first time since 2013.

Between these two glorious triumphs, however, his graph dropped in the Test arena. At home against Bangladesh and then New Zealand, and away in Australia, he mustered just one half-century in 15 innings. An unprecedented 3-0 hammering at the hands of New Zealand at home was followed by a forgettable tour down under. After missing the first Test in Perth on paternity leave, he dropped down the order to keep the new opening pair of Yashasvi Jaiswal and K.L. Rahul intact in Adelaide and Brisbane, where three innings netted a mere 19 runs.

Rohit returned to the top of the tree in Melbourne, but after efforts of 3 and 9, sat himself out of the decider in Sydney. He insisted then that he wasn't calling it quits from the five-day game, but four months later, he announced his retirement from Test cricket, some six weeks before the tour of England.

Once he bid adieu to the longest version, Rohit officially became a one-format international. He had already signed off from T20Is minutes after holding aloft the World Cup in Bridgetown in June 2024. Now, he only had the 50-over canvas to use as his medium to continue to paint the prettiest pictures, with his predecessor as India captain, Virat Kohli, for sterling company in the same weather worn but sturdy boat.

It's been 13 months since first Rohit, and then Kohli, transitioned into only ODI specialists. It's some 13 months (give or take a month) to the next 50-over World Cup, to be held in the Africas. The burning question on the minds of everyone even remotely invested and interested in Indian cricket is whether these two stalwarts will be available for the World Cup. And whether, that being the case, they will be considered for selection.

Valid questions

On the face of it, these appear valid questions. Rohit will be 40 and a half at the start of the World Cup, Kohli will turn 39 during the tournament. Considering that they will form two-thirds of the top three, all other things being equal, they will front up as vital early enforcers, Rohit more than Kohli with his penchant for taking down the bowling when the field restrictions are in place in the first 10 overs. They will need to be on top of not just their cricket, but also their fitness. They know that, much better than anyone else. Let's give them that, let's give them the respect that their experience and their contributions to the sport deserve. But no, we won't let them be, will we?

And therefore, every time one or both of these worthies turns up in the India Blue, they are placed under immense scrutiny. The narrative that is being sought to be projected is that every game is an audition, every innings an extension of the alleged lifeline they have been thrown. Is this the way to treat anyone, let alone two of the greatest white-ball players of all time?

In recent times, though, there has been a conscious move to stop looking at Rohit and Kohli as a package deal. A package deal that, let's admit, we are the ones who created in the first place. Kohli, we are told, has managed to buy himself more time after a rip-roaring IPL 2026 in which he finished as the tournament's fourth highest run-maker, striking at a career-best 165.84 per 100 balls and once again influencing Royal Challengers Bengaluru's title run, like he had 12 months previously.

Fresh debates

The same IPL that has allowed Kohli 'breathing room' has served as the catalyst to ignite fresh debates over Rohit's future.

The former Mumbai Indians skipper began the season with a blazing 78 as his franchise won its opening match for the first time in more than a dozen years. After three further innings, he picked up a hamstring injury that kept him out of action for three weeks. On his comeback, he smashed 84 at his beloved Wankhede Stadium to emphatic ally fears over whether he had made a complete recovery. He backed that up with cameos - 22, 25 and 15 - before being dismissed without scoring in his final fixture, ending with 283 runs at a strike-rate of 157.22. Despite missing five games, the 39-year-old was his side's fourth highest run-maker. But relevant stats seldom matter when a convenient tale is sought to be spun. Indian cricket, and selection specifically, seems to have slipped into the grip of ambivalence if one is to go by recent developments. Less than a year after he was named the Test vice-captain, Rishabh Pant has lost that responsibility, replaced by K.L. Rahul who is one of the few players to have led the country in all formats. Despite doing precious wrong in the successful defence of the World Cup crown in March, Axar Patel has ceded that same status in T20Is to Tilak Varma. There hasn't been a convincing explanation on what precipitated these decisions.

That same ambivalence has seeped into other aspects, including roared whispers and innuendos about Rohit's fitness, more than anything else. Rohit came into the IPL having shed plenty of weight, and despite the hamstring injury that must have come as a dampener, he ensured that he stayed light on his feet. Clearly, he has invested a great deal of time, effort and intensity in trying to become the fittest version of himself. Of course, he isn't doing anyone a favour, but the very fact that he is willing to give it his all at this stage of his career to keep himself relevant is credit to the passionate inner fire.

The hamstring injury has become a convenient stick to beat him with. By the same token, Test and ODI skipper Shubman Gill's troublesome neck could be a talking point too. Gill missed the Bengaluru annihilation by New Zealand in October 2024 (India were shot out for 46) and the Guwahati misadventure against South Africa last November (when they slumped to a record 408-run pounding) with a neck problem which clearly is chronic. Thankfully, his injury is being treated with the empathy it deserves. It's time that courtesy is extended to the others too, never mind if they are 39 years young.

Clarity needed

If India's think-tank believes that it needs to look beyond Rohit when it comes to the World Cup, the humane thing will be to let him know so. But if it has an 'open mind', as it insists in public, maybe the members of the collective will be better advised to refrain from a pointed remark here, a pithy comment there, bordering on the potshot. Nobody, least of all India's most successful limited-overs captain alongside Mahendra Singh Dhoni, should be put in that position.

Last month, in a podcast, Kohli made his views on the constant microscopic attention and the will-he-should-he World Cup presence conundrum clear in emphatic terms. "I work as hard, if not harder than anyone else," he pointed out. "You want me to run boundary to boundary for 40 overs in an ODI game? I will do that without a complaint. Because I prepare accordingly. I prepare for the fact that I will field 50 overs, every ball like it's the last ball I'm going to play in my career. And I will bat that way. And I will run between the wickets that way. And I will do everything possible for the team.

"After operating like this, if I have to be in a place where I have to prove my worth and value, that place is not meant to be for me... I've been asked so many times, do you want to play (the) '27 (World Cup)'? I know the answer. Like, why would I leave my home, you know, get my stuff over...? Of course, if I'm playing, I want to play cricket. I want to carry on. Playing a World Cup for India is amazing. But as I said, the value has to be two sides."

Kohli might have been speaking for Rohit too (package deal, remember?) even if Rohit may not run 'boundary to boundary for 40 overs' or run between the wickets like the original energiser bunny. But while Kohli has always been that way, Rohit has never been likewise, so how fair is it to expect him to suddenly start doing things that he has never done before just because he is 39 years of age? At the end of the day, it's important for those who address these issues to figure out what it is they want of Rohit - a world-class, fit (-looking?) athlete all of a sudden, or the destructive batter that he has been since he started opening in ODIs in January 2013.

Rohit must be feeling the strain, no doubt. Already, the ready smile on the field that was such an endearing feature is going out of fashion.

Maybe he is still the same one-liner-driven humourist inside the dressing room, but let's not take that for granted. And it isn't benevolence that is dictating Rohit's continued presence at the international level. Let's not forget that, either.

THE GIST

- Not so long back, Rohit was the toast of the nation. He masterminded a spectacular run at the 2024 T20 World Cup, lighting up the stage with several incisive knocks including in the league stage against Australia and the semifinal against England
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Peenya flyover declared safe after successful load test

One of Bengaluru's busiest stretches, it has undergone repeated repair and maintenance works since 2021

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

A view of the Peenya Elevated Flyover on National Highway-4, officially known as the Dr. Sri Shivakumara Swamiji Flyover. FILE PHOTO

The results were found to be positive, confirming that the repaired structure meets all required safety standards

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has confirmed that the Peenya elevated flyover on National Highway-4, officially known as the Dr. Sri Shivakumara Swamiji Flyover, is structurally safe and fit for vehicular movement following the successful completion of a comprehensive load-bearing test conducted after recent cable repair works.

The flyover, one of Bengaluru's busiest stretches, has undergone repeated repair and maintenance works since 2021, particularly involving the replacement and strengthening of cables. During each phase of repair, the elevated flyover was closed to traffic, resulting in severe congestion and bumper-to-bumper traffic on the roads below the flyover, especially along the Peenya, Jalahalli and Dasarahalli stretches. To assess the effectiveness of the latest repair works and verify the structure's safety, the NHAI carried out an extensive load test between May 5 and 8. The testing was conducted under the supervision of a technical committee and in accordance with the guidelines prescribed by the Indian Roads Congress (IRC).

Load check

- **Reason for testing:** Verification of structural safety after cable repair and strengthening works
- **Testing period:** May 5-8, 2026
- **Testing method:** Comprehensive load-bearing test as per Indian Roads Congress (IRC) guidelines

Test procedure
- Heavily loaded trucks placed at critical points on the flyover
- Simulated maximum traffic loading conditions
- Static load testing conducted under technical supervision

Parameters assessed
- Stress
- Strain
- Deflection
- Vibration
- Structural movement

Key findings
All readings remained within permissible IRC limits

Outcome: Flyover declared structurally safe, stable and fit for vehicular traffic

Results

According to officials, the objective of the test was to evaluate the flyover's load-carrying capacity, structural integrity, stability and overall performance under simulated traffic loading conditions. The results were found to be positive, confirming that the repaired structure meets all required safety standards and is suitable for smooth traffic movement.

"After major repair and strengthening works, it is essential to verify that the structure is safe, stable and capable of carrying the intended traffic loads. Following the successful completion of cable repair works on the linear elevated flyover on NH-4, the NHAI conducted a comprehensive load test to assess the structural performance of the flyover," an official told *The Hindu*.

As part of the testing programme, heavily loaded trucks were strategically stationed at critical locations on the flyover to simulate maximum traffic loading conditions and generate the highest expected structural stresses.

Engineers used advanced monitoring instruments, including deflection sensors, strain gauges, load cells and data acquisition systems, to continuously record the structure's response during the test, according to officials.

The NHAI official said, "These highly sensitive instruments measured key structural parameters such as stress, strain, deflection, vibration and overall structural movement. During the static load test, the loaded vehicles remained stationary at designated positions while engineers closely monitored the flyover's behaviour under load."

Analysed data

The collected data was subsequently analysed and compared with permissible limits specified under relevant IRC standards.

Officials stated that all observed readings remained within acceptable limits, confirming that the repaired sections satisfy the required safety and performance criteria. The load-testing programme covered two repaired spans of the flyover.

The NHAI has indicated that similar tests will be conducted on the remaining repaired spans, including sections measuring 34.5 metres and 37.5 metres in length, to further verify their structural adequacy and load-carrying capacity before completion of the overall strengthening programme.

Karnataka govt. plans voter ID link for Gruha Jyothi reapplication

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

At present, 1.67 crore people are benefiting from the Gruha Jyothi scheme. FILE PHOTO

With Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar announcing that people will have to re-apply to avail themselves of the Gruha Jyothi guarantee scheme, the Department of Energy is planning to link voter ID along with the Aadhaar and RR number of the respective electricity meters of consumers. The objective is to ensure that only voters from Karnataka benefit from the scheme.

A senior official from the Energy Department said, "There are a lot of people from other States who have voting rights in their State. They stay in Karnataka, mostly in rented accommodations, and benefit from the scheme. Therefore, when beneficiaries re-apply, we are planning to ask them to link their voter ID along with Aadhaar and RR number. Mechanisms will be put in place to check if they are Karnataka voters or not."

The official also added, "There are people from other States who have been living in Karnataka for many decades and also have voting rights here. In such instances, they can apply and benefit from the scheme."

Many could lose out

However, many Karnataka citizens have said they will lose out on the scheme if this is implemented. Aravind (name changed), a resident of Banashankari, said, "I do not have a voter ID and always vote using my Aadhaar card. In that case, I will lose my Gruha Jyothi benefits."

Another resident from R.T. Nagar said, "There are lakhs of people who migrate to Bengaluru for various reasons. I shifted from Mysuru to Bengaluru long ago. Though I have a voter ID registered in Mysuru, I have not exercised my franchise in either city. In addition, the house I own is in my wife's name, and she, too, does not have a voter ID. So far, I have been paying ₹200 to ₹300 per month for electricity. If the government brings in the new rules, I will end up paying more."

In response, an official in the Energy Department said, "We do not have an exact figure for non-voters and cannot say how many people are likely to lose Gruha Jyothi benefits. In future, it will be mandatory for Gruha Jyothi beneficiaries to have a voter ID registered in Karnataka. It does not matter whether they have exercised their franchise in recent years or not."

At present, 1.67 crore people are benefiting from the Gruha Jyothi scheme. As per the latest data from the Energy Department, the government has released a subsidy of ₹5,830 crore in 2022-23, ₹9,158 crore in 2024-25, ₹10,260 crore in 2025-26, and ₹1,762 crore in 2026-27 (till May 31) to electricity supply companies.

Emphasising the subsidy outlay, the official said, "At present, the government pays ₹800 crore to ₹1,000 crore as subsidy for the scheme. If the government can save even ₹200 crore from this subsidy, the money can be utilised for other infrastructure works of the department."

Under the scheme, free electricity is supplied every month, subject to a maximum consumption limit of 200 units. This will continue in the same manner, the official added.

Not binary: India can save its forests by winning the war on poverty

Forests with more poor households and communities that depended more on fuelwood were also found to have less diverse tree species, a new study has found. On the other hand, forests where communities had access to alternative livelihoods, such as farming, had more diverse trees species

Ipsita Herlekar

Garo tribal women carrying firewood in the West Garo Hills district of Meghalaya in 2024. Representative image. RITU RAJ KONWAR

THE GIST

Researchers pointed out that when people have fewer livelihood options and depend heavily on forests to survive, the pressure on forest resources automatically increases

The new findings can be used to support conservation by prioritising wildlife corridors — patches of forests that form a loose link between protected areas

The findings show how socio-economic conditions and conservation goals need not be in conflict with each other

Traditionally, many conservationists and policymakers have seen biodiversity conservation as a choice between protecting nature and meeting human needs. Forests were often seen as places that had to be protected from people, while alleviating poverty and economic development were treated as separate concerns.

A new international study has concluded that this is a harmful view.

In a paper in the journal *Nature Sustainability*, researchers from the University of Notre Dame, the University of Michigan, Yale University, the University of Colorado Boulder (U.S.), the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, the University of Manchester (U.K.), the University of Victoria (Canada), and the Indian School of Business analysed data from community-managed forests in the tropics.

The data came from the International Forestry Resources and Institutions network, and spanned 322 community-managed tropical forests in 15 countries from 1993 to 2017.

The dataset's size allowed the researchers to understand both current patterns in forest biodiversity and how they had changed over time. Principally, they found a significant link between people's livelihoods and forest biodiversity.

Forests, people, livelihoods

Forests with more poor households and communities that depended more on fuelwood were also found to have less diverse tree species. The team also found similar patterns in forests in densely populated areas with higher levels of poverty.

On the other hand, forests where communities had access to alternative livelihoods, such as farming, had more diverse trees.

Tree species diversity refers to the number of tree species in a forest; it is an important measure of biodiversity. Forests with more species tend to support more wildlife, are ecologically more stable, and are often more resilient to environmental change.

Overall, the analysis found that a greater dependence on forest resources was associated with lower tree species diversity.

However, the researchers emphasised that poverty is not responsible for biodiversity loss. They pointed out that when people have fewer livelihood options and depend heavily on forests to survive, the pressure on forest resources automatically increases. The way out is to improve economic opportunities.

The fortress model

The study also focused on human-dominated landscapes, which are common in India. Most forests in the country are owned and managed by State Forest Departments. And for decades, this apparatus has followed the fortress model – where protected areas are managed by minimising human activities and restricting access to resources. While this model has allowed the Departments to recover several iconic species and strengthen protection, it has some severe limitations.

Today, many protected areas are increasingly becoming isolated islands surrounded by human-dominated landscapes.

"The forests in these landscapes are smaller in size and bear a heavy burden of extraction," Ashwini Chhatre, associate professor of Public Policy at the Indian School of Business and one of the study's authors, said.

Around 275 million people depend on these forests to varying degrees for their livelihoods and daily needs.

"But these forests are ecologically important and provide significant ecosystem services," Dr. Chhatre said.

According to him, the new findings can be used to support conservation by prioritising wildlife corridors – patches of forests that form a loose link between protected areas.

"These corridors are used by large mammals to move between protected areas. The improvement of species richness in these corridors will increase forest resilience and support conservation directly," he said.

Helping conservation

To reduce pressure on forests, State Forest Departments across India have introduced initiatives like distributing subsidised LPG connections and efficient cooking stoves and heaters around many tiger reserves and national parks. The measures reduce people's need for fuelwood and to enter forests.

Today, many protected areas are increasingly becoming isolated islands surrounded by human-dominated landscapes. They bear a heavy burden of extraction from communities who depend on them for their livelihood

Extending similar support to private landholdings and community forests along wildlife corridors could help conservation.

However, Imran Siddiqui, senior field conservationist at the Centre for Wildlife Studies, who has worked extensively in protected areas and with forest communities in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, said that while such initiatives are well-intentioned and that communities often welcome them, they face implementation challenges.

"Funding can be inconsistent, participation from local communities may vary, and long-term support is not always guaranteed," he said.

Conservation partners

Today, there is growing recognition among wildlife conservationists and forest managers that conservation can't succeed without the support of local communities.

In addition to fuel alternatives and subsidies, many State Forest Departments also give local community members jobs in tourism, forest protection, and seasonal conservation work.

The late ecologist Madhav Gadgil was a strong advocate of an inclusive approach, believing conservation efforts would be more effective if local communities had rights, incentives, and a meaningful role in managing natural resources. He also emphasised the value of traditional ecological knowledge, and argued people who had lived alongside forests for generations possessed insights that could complement scientific approaches to conservation.

In Ladakh, the Snow Leopard Conservancy has mitigated economic losses of human-wildlife conflict with community-run homestays and livestock insurance programmes. In Maharashtra's Sindhudurg district, village-based Mangrove Co-Management Committees help protect mangrove ecosystems while supporting fisheries, ecotourism, and sustainable aquaculture.

In Arunachal Pradesh, hornbill nest adoption programmes run by the Nature Conservation Foundation have encouraged local communities to protect nesting sites, with former Nyishi tribe hunters now serving as nest protectors and forest patrollers.

There is also tremendous scope to expand these initiatives and to further support community welfare.

As Mr. Siddiqui said, wildlife tourism is a growing multi-million-dollar industry, yet only a small fraction of its revenue reaches the communities living alongside forests and protected areas. He added that a greater share of these benefits should be directed to local communities, creating stronger incentives for conservation.

The findings of the new study highlight the close links between alleviating poverty and conserving biodiversity, and show how socio-economic conditions and conservation goals need not be in conflict with each other. By recognising these connections, both conservationists and policymakers can design more inclusive frameworks to benefit both people and nature.

(Ipsita Herlekar is an independent science writer. ipsitaherlekar@gmail.com)

BIG SHOT

An employee of the Terratis company releases sterile male tiger mosquitoes in Montpellier, southern France, on June 5, 2026. With global warming, 80% of the world's population now runs the risk of being exposed to one or more infectious diseases long considered tropical, which cause more than a million deaths a year, according to the WHO. AFP

WHAT IS IT?

GRAPES-3: A cosmic-ray tracker

Vasudevan Mukunth

Researchers from Mumbai, Kochi, and Japan used the GRAPES-3 telescope to track how the earth's upper atmosphere temperature and the sun's magnetic field affect muons — subatomic particles from space. By analysing 22 years of data, they developed a way to use these measurements to monitor changes in the upper atmosphere in real-time with high accuracy. The findings are to be published in the August issue of *Astroparticle Physics*.

The GRAPES-3 telescope in Ooty, Tamil Nadu does not look at light like a traditional telescope. Instead, it is a muon detector. Muons are created when high-energy cosmic rays from deep space collide with the earth's upper atmosphere. The facility consists of 16 independent modules spread over a large area. Each module contains 232 proportional counters, which are long steel tubes filled with a special mixture of argon and methane, with a thin tungsten wire running through the centre. When a muon passes through a tube, it knocks electrons out of the gas molecules. These electrons are pulled towards the wire, creating an electrical pulse that the telescope records as a hit.

The detector array of GRAPES-3 in Ooty. HIDEKI TANAKA (CC BY-SA)

The tubes are arranged in four layers, with each layer positioned at a right angle to the one below. This grid layout allows scientists to track the exact path and angle of the incoming muons. Thick layers of reinforced concrete are placed between the tubes to ensure the telescope only counts high-energy muons that are strong enough to penetrate the concrete. This is how GRAPES-3 is able to produce a high-resolution map of the invisible cosmic forces affecting the earth.

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Improving quality of everyday life my priority, says Krishna Byre Gowda

'We always talk about making Bengaluru a world-class city, but along with that, we all need to work towards improving the quality of life of the residents of this city'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda speaking at a meeting with senior GBA officials and others in Bengaluru on Tuesday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Improving the quality of everyday life of Bengalureans will be his priority, said Krishna Byre Gowda, Byatarayanapura MLA, on Tuesday, after he took charge as Bengaluru Development Minister and held the first review meeting with the Greater Bengaluru Authority.

"We always talk of making Bengaluru a world-class city, but along with that, we all need to work towards improving the quality of life of the residents of this city. This not only entails improving physical infrastructure like roads, drains, garbage management, and traffic, but a 360-degree perspective which will make the city a vibrant space," he said.

In a meeting with senior officials earlier, Mr. Byre Gowda asked them whether it was "rocket science" to build pothole-free roads.

"We have been saying the same thing for 25 years now, but the problem persists. The lifespan of roads in the city is low. This essentially means that we are not doing our work properly and are creating eternal problems. This needs to change," he said.

Mr. Gowda conceded that the waste collection system in the city had to improve.

"While in some cases it is irregular, it is not on time in many places. This may have led to the formation of many black spots. It is our responsibility to correct this, and we will work towards it," he said.

However, he added that the garbage problem could be solved only if the people also cooperated.

"There are instances where people recklessly dump waste on the roads. People should also become responsible and cooperate; only then can we solve this problem," he said.

Responding to allegations by the Opposition regarding the Integrated Solid Waste Management (ISWM) tenders, he said the government had already formed a tender evaluation committee with senior officials, and the Opposition was free to submit their complaints to the committee. "Their complaints will also be taken into consideration during the evaluation of the tender, and only then will the final call be taken," he said.

Hitting back at objections to the long tenure of the tender (30 years), he said the city needed long-term thinking and strategic planning. "Short-term fixes and band-aid solutions are why we are here today," he said.

"Since the private firm will invest in building waste processing infrastructure, the evaluation committee will also look at the duration in which it will be able to recover its investment," he added.

Praising the e-Khata system as best anywhere in the country, he conceded teething problems, which he said would be fixed.

"A major share of litigation is property disputes. The new khata system will cut down future litigation and corruption," he said.

Narcotics worth ₹8 crore seized, 23 arrested

BENGALURU: The police busted multiple drug trafficking networks operating across Bengaluru and arrested 23 persons, including two foreign nationals and six individuals from other States, during a series of coordinated raids conducted over the past several days.

The seized contraband includes 5.360 kg of hydro ganja, 10.998 kg of ganja, 143 gm of cocaine, 237 gm of MDMA, and 107 gm of methamphetamine.

Officials estimated the value of the seized contraband at around ₹4 crore, while its illegal market value is believed to be nearly double, i.e., approximately ₹8 crore.

Kempe Gowda Jayanti on June 27

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

This year's Nadaprabhu Kempe Gowda Jayanti will be held at the newly-developed Nadaprabhu Kempe Gowda Layout on June 27, Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said on Tuesday.

Speaking to reporters after a preparatory meeting he said, "The programme to plant 15 lakh saplings across the city will also be launched. A new road in this layout will be inaugurated." Separate teams will arrive from the four Kempegowda towers in the city. "Ramalinga Reddy, Krishna Byre Gowda, K.J. George and Byrathi Suresh will be in charge of the teams for each tower in Bengaluru," he said.

3-year-old injured in attack by stray dogs

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A three-and-a-half-year-old girl was attacked by a pack of eight to 10 stray dogs in north Bengaluru's Sahakarnagar on Sunday.

The victim, the daughter of a migrant worker, was playing on a street at around 4 p.m. when the incident occurred. CCTV footage shows at least three dogs pouncing on the child, with more stray dogs joining the attack later. A woman at a distance noticed the commotion and rushed to her rescue, chasing the dogs away.

A source from the North Corporation told *The Hindu* that the girl was taken to a hospital and is in stable condition after treatment. "We have captured four dogs so far and kept them in an observation centre to monitor them and identify the aggressive ones," the official said.

The video of the attack was widely shared on social media, with users calling out corporation officials for neglecting the issue and questioning the safety of citizens.

Timings
BENGALURU

WEDNESDAY, JUN. 17
RISE 05:54 SET 18:47
RISE 08:01 SET 21:17

THURSDAY, JUN. 18
RISE 05:54 SET 18:47
RISE 09:05 SET 22:07

FRIDAY, JUN. 19
RISE 05:54 SET 18:48
RISE 10:04 SET 22:52

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	34	15
Mysuru	34	20
Bengaluru	32	22

Bengaluru Today
31°C The weather will be slight warm. Night will be pleasant. Spell of moderate rain and thundershower with gusty winds to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be slight warm. Few spells of moderate to heavy rain and thundershower to occur.

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THE HINDU
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England & Europe
9 / 13 / 16 Days
Dates: AUG 25. SEP 15, 29. OCT 13, 27. NOV 10.
7975001525

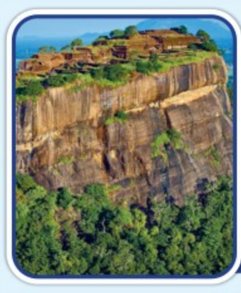
Australia & New Zealand
10/ 13 / 22 Days
Dates: AUG 16, 30. SEP 13, 27. OCT 4, 18. NOV 8, 15, 22. DEC 6.
9364088424

Singapore - Malaysia - Thailand
4 / 5 / 8 / 12 / 16 Days
Dates: JUL 3, 16. AUG 6, 13, 20. SEP 3, 17, 24. OCT 1, 15, 29. NOV 5, 19, 26. DEC 3, 10.
7483366378

Vietnam – Cambodia
4 / 6 / 7 / 10 / 12 Days
Dates: JUL 9, 23. AUG 6, 13, 20. SEP 10, 17, 24. OCT 1, 15, 29. NOV 5, 19, 26. DEC 3, 10
7022259008

Bali – The Land of Gods
5 / 7 / 9 Days
Dates: JUL 6, 20. AUG 3, 17. SEP 7, 14, 21. OCT 5, 12, 26. NOV 2, 9, 16, 23. DEC 7, 14.
7022259001

Nepal - Muktinath – Janakpur
9 Days
Dates: JUL 9, 23. AUG 13, 27. SEP 10, 24. OCT 1, 22, 29. NOV 12, 26.
7022259007



Srilanka Ramayana Trails
5 / 7 / 8 Days
Dates: JUL 9, 23. AUG 6, 13, 27. SEP 10, 17, 24. OCT 1, 15, 29. NOV 5, 19, 26. DEC 3, 10, 17.
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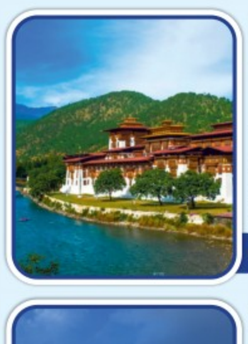

Bhutan - The Land of Happiness
8 Days
Dates: JUL 9, 23. AUG 13, 27. SEP 10, 24. OCT 1, 15, 22, 29. NOV 12, 26. DEC 3, 17.
7022259003

Japan
8 Days
Tokyo, Mt Fuji, Bullet Train, Hiroshima, Osaka, Kyoto, Nara
Dates: JUL 9, 23. AUG 6, 13, 20. SEP 10, 17, 24. OCT 1, 15, 29. NOV 5, 19, 26. DEC 3, 10.
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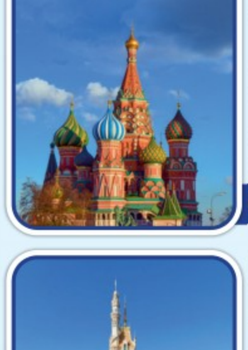
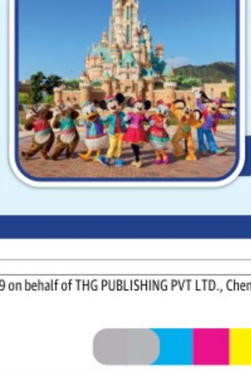


Russia
7 Days
Moscow & Saint Petersburg
Dates: AUG 10, 24. SEP 7, 21. OCT 5, 12, 19. NOV 2, 9.
9364104366

South Africa
10 Days
Sun City, Pilanesberg, Mossel Bay, Cape Town, Table Mountain, Hout Bay.
Dates: AUG 16, 30. SEP 20, 27. OCT 4, 18. NOV 8, 15, 22. DEC 6, 13.
7022259008



Hong Kong - Macau-Shenzhen
7 Days
Dates: JUL 9, 23. AUG 13, 20. SEP 17, 24. OCT 1, 15, 29. NOV 5, 12, 19. DEC 3, 10.
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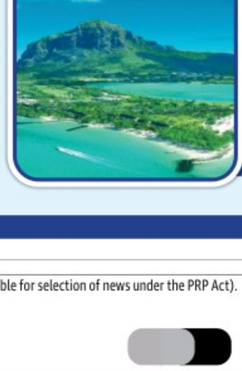

Mauritius
7 Days
Ile Aux Cerf Tour, North Island Tour, South Island Tour.
Dates: JUL 9, 23. AUG 13, 27. SEP 10, 24. OCT 15, 29. NOV 5, 12, 19. DEC 4, 11, 18.
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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Percentage increase in MCD revenue in 2025-26

17 in per cent. The Municipal Corporation of Delhi recorded its highest-ever annual revenue of ₹14,549.06 crore in 2025-26, a 17.27% increase over the previous financial year, officials said on Tuesday. The revenue figures were shared by MCD standing committee chairperson Satya Sharma, who said the total revenue increased from ₹12,406.75 crore in 2024-25. PTI

Number of beneficiaries under PM-VBRY

60 lakh. About 60 lakh first-time employees, including over 18 lakh women have benefitted under Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana (PM-VBRY), official sources said. PM-VBRY is the Centre's Employment-Linked Incentive (ELI) scheme operational from August 1, 2025. The benefits of the scheme would be applicable till July 31, 2027. PTI

Identified area of coral reef capable of surviving climate crisis

64,000 sq. miles. Nearly 1,66,000 sq km (64,000 sq miles) of coral reefs capable of surviving and recovering from climate change, three times more than previously estimated, have been identified by scientists in a study revealed on Tuesday. The coral reefs have come under severe stress in recent years. PTI

Energy storage capacity added by India in first quarter

4.6 GWh. India added 4.6 gigawatt-hours (GWh) of battery energy storage capacity in the first three months of this year, registering a 941% increase from 442.7 megawatt-hours added in the preceding October-December 2025 period, a report said. As per the latest research, India's cumulative installed battery energy storage capacity reached 5.9 GWh. PTI

Vacancies in Delhi Pollution Control Committee as of 2026

62 The Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) has improved its staffing position over the past four years, reducing vacancies from 187 in 2022 to 62 in 2026, according to a Right to Information reply. The RTI reply, obtained by environmental activist Amit Gupta, showed that the DPCC has 282 employees against a sanctioned strength of 344 posts. PTI

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Why was Trump's H-1B fee struck down?

What is the H-1B visa programme and who uses it? Why did the Trump administration impose the $100,000 fee? What impact was the policy expected to have on States and employers? Did the President have the authority to impose the fee? Why did the court classify the charge as a tax rather than a penalty?

EXPLAINER

Kartikey Singh

The story so far:

On June 8, in a 42-page ruling with nationwide effect, U.S. District Judge Leo T. Sorokin struck down President Donald Trump's policy imposing a $100,000 fee on H-1B visas for highly skilled foreign workers. Upholding a challenge brought by California and 19 other States (plaintiffs), the court held that the fee amounted to an unlawful tax that the President could not impose without Congressional delegation.

Policy change: On September 19, 2025, U.S. President Donald Trump signed Proclamation 10973, requiring a $100,000 supplemental payment for all H-1B visa petitions. GETTY IMAGES

What is an H-1B Visa?

The H-1B visa, created by the Immigration Act of 1990, is the backbone of the United States' high-skilled immigration architecture. Building on the broader framework of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952 (INA), which established the "H" category of temporary worker visas, the 1990 law carved out a distinct H-1B classification for highly educated professionals. It permits U.S. employers to hire foreign nationals in "specialty occupations", which require (i) theoretical and practical application of a body of specialised knowledge and (ii) at least a bachelor's degree in a relevant field, typically in sectors such as technology, engineering, healthcare, research, finance, and higher education. Notably, H-1B workers can generally remain in the U.S. for up to six years and often use the visa as a pathway to permanent residency.

To balance employers' demand for skilled talent with protection of the domestic workforce, Congress capped H-1B approvals for most private employers at 65,000 visas annually, with an additional 20,000 visas reserved for holders of advanced degrees. However, universities, affiliated non-profit entities, and governmental or non-profit research organisations are exempt from these numerical limits.

Why did Trump impose a $100,000 fee?

On September 19, 2025, Mr. Trump signed Proclamation 10973, requiring a $100,000 supplemental payment for all H-1B visa petitions – a substantial increase over the pre-existing filing costs of roughly $960 to $7,595. The proclamation reasoned that the H-1B programme had been "deliberately exploited to replace, rather than supplement, American workers" with lower-paid foreign labour, harming U.S. economic and national security interests, particularly in critical STEM sectors. Mr. Trump's proclamation relied on Sections 212(f) and 215(a) of the INA. Section 212(f) empowers the President to restrict or suspend the entry of any class of aliens (non-citizens) when he finds their entry "would be detrimental to the interests of the United States." Additionally, Section 215(a), which also concerns the President's authority to regulate entry into the U.S., allows him to subject alien entry to "such reasonable rules, regulations, and orders, and such limitations and exceptions as the President may prescribe."

While alleging that the proclamation violated the 'separation-of-powers' principle as it "usurps Congress's exclusive constitutional authority to set immigration policy and to levy taxes", the plaintiff States argued before the U.S. District Court that the $100,000 H-1B fee would undermine their ability to recruit and retain essential skilled workers. They argued it would worsen teacher shortages, hamper hiring in higher education, disrupt research, and deepen healthcare staffing gaps – raising costs and straining public systems.

Simultaneously, the measure also carried significant implications for India. Indians account for roughly 70% of H-1B visa approvals, followed by Chinese nationals at about 12%, and are heavily represented in the STEM professions targeted by the proclamation. By raising the cost of an H-1B petition, the policy effectively created a prohibitive barrier for thousands of Indian software engineers, doctors, researchers, and other skilled professionals, many of whom already face years-long green card backlogs.

Did the President have the power to impose the fee?

The threshold issue before the court was whether the $100,000 charge was a 'tax' or a 'penalty', because only Congress possesses the constitutional power to "lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts, and Excises" under Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution, unless it clearly delegates that authority to the executive.

To answer this question, the judge, an appointee of President Barack Obama, relied on two landmark Supreme Court precedents. In *Bailey v. Drexel Furniture Co.* (1922), the court invalidated the Child Labour Tax Law, holding that its "heavy exaction" was a 'penalty' rather than a 'tax' because it was designed to prohibit the employment of child labour. By contrast, in *National Federation of Independent Business* v. *Sebelius* (2012), the court found that the Affordable Care Act's requirement that individuals pay an additional fee to the Internal Revenue Service for not obtaining health insurance amounted to a 'tax', not a 'penalty', explaining that a penalty ordinarily constitutes "punishment for an unlawful act or omission." Applying this framework, Judge Sorokin concluded that the $100,000 H-1B charge was a 'tax', as hiring workers under the H-1B programme is plainly lawful, and the payment did not operate as punishment for any unlawful conduct.

Further, the court examined whether Congress had delegated taxing authority to the President through Sections 212(f) and 215(a) of the INA. It found no such delegation.

While those provisions empower the President to impose "restrictions", "rules", "regulations", "orders", "limitations", and "exceptions" governing the entry of non-citizens, Judge Sorokin held that their ordinary meaning does not encompass the power over the public purse. The court also found multiple violations of the Administrative Procedure Act. Accordingly, Judge Sorokin ruled that "the Policy implementing the Proclamation is declared unlawful and is vacated in its entirety".

Kartikey Singh, lawyer, and currently working as a Law Clerk-cum-Research Associate at the Supreme Court of India. Views expressed are personal.

THE GIST

- To balance employers' demand for skilled talent with protection of the domestic workforce, Congress capped H-1B approvals for most private employers at 65,000 visas annually, with an additional 20,000 visas reserved for holders of advanced degrees.
- However, universities, affiliated non-profit entities, and governmental or non-profit research organisations are exempt from these numerical limits.
- The issue before the court was whether the $100,000 charge was a 'tax' or a 'penalty', because only Congress possesses the constitutional power to "lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts, and Excises" under Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution, unless it clearly delegates that authority to the executive.

What does Tenth Schedule provide on party mergers?

Why has the misuse of the merger provision increased after the deletion of paragraph 3?

LETTER AND SPIRIT

Rangarajan R.

The story so far:

As many as 20 rebel Trinamool Congress MPs met the Lok Sabha Speaker and announced their decision to merge with Nationalist Citizens Party of India (NCPI). This has raised issues about the interpretation of Tenth Schedule with respect to merger of political parties.

What is the origin of Tenth Schedule?

The defections of legislators during 1960s and 70s from their parent parties created political instability in many States bringing down elected governments. This prompted the 52nd constitutional amendment to introduce the 'anti-defection' law through the Tenth Schedule in 1985. This Schedule provides that a member of a House of Parliament or State legislature who voluntarily gives up the membership of their 'political party' or votes against the instructions of their party in a House are liable for disqualification from such House. The 'political party' is the entire organisation of a party, while the 'legislature party' is all the members of a political party in a House of Parliament or State legislature.

The Tenth Schedule originally had two exceptions that would not render the members liable for disqualification viz., one-third of members of the 'legislature party' splitting to form a separate group (paragraph 3), or a merger of their 'political party' with another party that is approved by two-thirds of the members of its 'legislature party' (paragraph 4). However, considering the need to strengthen the 'anti-defection' law, paragraph 3 was omitted in 2003.

With the deletion of paragraph 3, there have been instances of two-third members of a legislature party 'practically' defecting but claiming to be the original political party in order to escape disqualification. This happened in the case of Shiv Sena and Nationalist Congress Party in June 2022 and July 2023 respectively.

There have also been instances where more than two-third members of a 'legislature party' in a house have merged themselves with another political party to escape disqualification. This happened in September 2019 (in Rajasthan) when all 6 Bahujan Samajwadi Party MLAs merged themselves with the Congress and in September 2022 (in Goa) when 8 out of the 11 Congress MLAs merged themselves with the BJP. The Bombay High Court upheld the merger of Goa's Congress Legislature Party with the BJP, though an appeal is pending in the apex court. A similar move occurred in April 2026 when 7 of 10 AAP Rajya Sabha MPs merged with the BJP.

What is the present case in Bengal?

After the recent West Bengal polls, around 60 of the 80 MLAs elected from Trinamool Congress formed a separate faction led by Ritabrata Banerjee, who was recognised as the Leader of Opposition in the State Assembly even after the party expelled him. Meanwhile, 20 of the 28 Lok Sabha MPs have submitted their decision to the Lok Sabha Speaker to merge themselves with the NCPI. Their claim is that they constitute two-thirds of the legislature party and are hence authorised to take this step under the provisions of the Tenth Schedule without attracting disqualification.

What may be way forward?

A plain reading of the Tenth Schedule allows only for merger of a political party with another party that is approved by two-thirds of its legislature party. It does not authorise two-thirds of the legislature party in a house to merge itself with another political party to claim immunity from defection. However, in the recent instance with respect to proposed merger of Trinamool Lok Sabha MPs with NCPI as well as the merger of Rajya Sabha MPs of AAP with the BJP, this is what has happened. It is also subject to interpretation whether a merger of an 'original political party' can happen only with another political party that already has members in the legislative house. Moreover, the authority to decide on the disqualification of members is vested in the Speaker or Chairman. While they are expected to perform this constitutional role impartially, the presiding officers have often favoured the ruling dispensation. The Supreme Court in K. M. Singh case in 2020, recommended that the Parliament amend the Constitution to vest these powers in an independent tribunal headed by judges.

An authoritative Supreme Court judgement in the matters of merger and setting up of an independent tribunal to decide on disqualification may reduce the ambiguities surrounding the Tenth Schedule. However, it may not prevent the ingenious methods adopted by political parties to circumvent the Tenth Schedule. Any such manoeuvres may be viewed as a betrayal of the electorate by the elected representatives. A stricter measure, as recommended by the Law commission in 1999, could be to amend the Tenth Schedule and delete paragraph 4 that provides exemption from disqualification for merger of political parties. Any action by elected members of a legislature party against their political party should lead to disqualification that results in seeking fresh mandate from the people.

Rangarajan R. is a former IAS officer and author of 'Courseware on Polity Simplified'. He currently trains at 'Officers IAS Academy'. Views expressed are personal.

Explore dedicated biotech investment, embed AI across value chain: Mazumdar-Shaw

Biocon chief says the State has built one of India's strongest biotechnology ecosystems, backed by world-class research institutions, industry leadership, and a vibrant start-up community

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka should explore dedicated biotechnology investment mechanisms while embedding artificial intelligence across the biotechnology value chain to unlock new opportunities in drug discovery, diagnostics, precision medicine, and biomanufacturing, said Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, chairperson, Vision Group on Biotechnology.

She was speaking at the 64th meeting of the Vision Group on Biotechnology (VGBT) convened by the Government of Karnataka on Tuesday to review the State's biotechnology ecosystem and deliberate on strategic priorities for strengthening Karnataka's

Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw

leadership in biotechnology, biomanufacturing, health innovation, and the bioeconomy.

Karnataka has built one of India's strongest biotechnology ecosystems, supported by world-class research institutions, industry leadership, and a vibrant start-up community, Ms. Mazumdar-Shaw said.

"As we enter the next phase of growth, we must strengthen mechanisms that support translational research, commercialisation and scale-up. Biotechnology start-ups require patient capital, strong industry partnerships, and long-term support," she further said.

She also emphasised the need to create stronger pathways for biotechnology start-ups to access growth capital and scale globally, while strengthening Karnataka's position as a preferred destination for biotechnology innovation and entrepreneurship.

N. Manjula, Secretary, Department of Electronics, IT, Biotechnology, and Science and Technology, Government of Karnataka, said, Karnataka's biotechnology leadership has been built on a strong foundation of talent, innovation, and collaboration.

A significant focus of the meeting was on strengthening the State's biotechnology innovation and financing ecosystem. Members deliberated on the need for a State-level framework to support biotechnology enterprises across different stages of growth through funding, mentoring, regulatory guidance and commercialisation support. The Vision Group also discussed the potential to build a dedicated biotechnology support mechanism inspired by successful national innovation models, with the objective of accelerating the growth of high-potential biotechnology ventures in Karnataka.

A view of K.R. Market in Bengaluru on Tuesday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

K.R. Market vendors go on bandh over new parking arrangements

B.V. Poojitha
BENGALURU

The iconic K.R. Market in the heart of the city wore a deserted look on Tuesday, with empty carts, fewer customers, and an eerie silence at a place where the buzz never ends.

The scene was the result of a bandh called by the Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha and Green Brigade (KRRSGB).

The bandh was organised against the recent parking arrangements at K.R. Market, with protesters arguing that the changes have severely disrupted the functioning of the market and have affected farmers, traders, and street vendors.

For many street vendors, the issue goes beyond logistics and directly threatens their livelihoods.

They alleged that civic officials had asked them to vacate their original vending spots and relocate inside the market, which would also require them to pay more money.

Lakshmi, a flower vendor, said, "They (the corporation) destroyed the place where we earn our livelihood. How do they expect us to buy a spot inside and then sell there? We will incur huge losses if they do this." Another vendor, who sells grapes, said he had been operating in the same spot for decades and is now being asked to move. "This is unfair. The increased cost of securing a place to sell is beyond impossible for us to bear. What do they gain from doing this apart from ruining our lives?" the vendor said with tears in his eyes.

Calls for change

The KRRSGB, headed by farmers' leader Kodihalli Chandrashekar, submitted a memorandum to M. Maheshwar Rao, Chief Commissioner of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), demanding that the new arrangements be revoked.

The association said that under the new arrangements, farmers are now forced to park their vehicles outside the market and walk nearly 300 to 400 metres to transport their produce, resulting in additional labour, time, and financial losses.

They also alleged that street vendors have been displaced from their vending spots without any of the necessary backup measures.

They also raised concerns about emergency access, explaining that ambulances and fire engines struggle to enter the market during unforeseen situations.

They cited a previous fire incident in which a person died because a fire tender could not reach the spot in time. The GBA has assured that it will look into the matter.

Action plan

G. Jagadeesha of the Bengaluru Central City Corporation visited K.R. Market following the submission of a memorandum and assured vendors that an action plan would be prepared to address the issue.

"When we visited here earlier, there was not even enough space for citizens to walk, so we had to take some action. We will now come up with a blueprint identifying designated spots for all vendors," Mr. Jagadeesha said.

He urged vendors not to pay any money to middlemen and said that all payments should be made only to the corporation.

Government of Karnataka
Karnataka Veterinary Animal and Fisheries Sciences University, Nandinagar Bidar

No.EO/KVAFSU/T.No.151/Works/2026-27 Date:15.06.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(e-Procurement portal only)

1) Works Details Construction of Concrete roadinfront of main building and providing new name board for main gate at IAH&VB, Hebbal, Bangalore, 2) Tender Estimate Amount **Rs.2643842.00** (Excluding GST), 3) Contractors eligibility details As mentioned e-portal 4) Tender Amount Details **Rs.2643842.00** (Excluding GST), 5) Cost of tender form and EMD details As mentioned e-portal, 6) Last date for submitting application **23.06.2026 up to 5.00 PM,** 9) Opening of financial bid **25.06.2026 at 11.30 AM,** 10) For more details contact office address, contract numbers Office of the Estate Officer KVAFSU, Nandinagar, Bidar 08482-245446, 11) Website details e-procurement portal- www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in

DIPR/Bidar/61/KSMC&A/2026-27 **Sd/- Estate Officer KVAFSU, Bidar.**

TAMIL NADU NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY
(A University Established by Tamil Nadu Act. No. 9 of 2012)
Navalurkuttappattu, Tiruchirappalli – 620 027, Tamil Nadu.
Phone Off: 0431-2692112, E-mail : registrar@tnnlu.ac.in; www.tnnlu.ac.in

RECRUITMENT OF ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF LAW(ADHOC)

Tamil Nadu National Law University invites applications from eligible and qualified candidates for appointment to the post of **Assistant Professor of Law** on contract / **ad hoc basis** for a period of **One (01) Year.** The details of the post are as follows:

Name of Post	Assistant Professor of Law
Nature of Appointment	Contract / Ad Hoc Basis
Duration	One (01) Year (extendable subject to performance and institutional requirement)
Number of Posts	08 (Eight)
Honorarium	Rs. 65,000/- (Rupees Sixty-Five Thousand Only) per month
Last Date for Submission	30th June 2026

For more details, including essential qualification and application procedures, please visit the university website **www.tnnlu.ac.in.**

DIPR/542/Display/2026 **REGISTRAR**

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Malleshwaram Division, Zone-2, 2nd Cross, Jaladarshini Layout, MSR Nagar, Mathikere, Bengaluru-560 054.

No:EE(MLM)/TEND/KPPP/02/2026-27 Date: 16.06.2026

Short Term Tender Notification
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPPP only), website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

The Executive Engineer Malleshwaram Division, BWCC Bengaluru invites item rate tenders from the registered contractors of Bangalore West City Corporation or equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/Railways / MES or any State Government Organizations.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work/Category
1.	Annual Maintenance for footpath, Desilting of Drains, Shoulder and grating cleaning, resetting of broken slabs and paver blocks in Ward No. 48, Mathikere, in Mathikere Sub Division for the Year 2026-27. **(Others). Estimate Cost of Tender (₹ in Lakhs): 35.00, Amount put to tender (₹ in Lakhs): 28.78, EMD (in ₹): 57,570/-.**
2.	Annual Maintenance for footpath, Desilting of Drains, Shoulder and grating cleaning, resetting of broken slabs and paver blocks in Ward in Ward No. 49, Aramanenagara in Mathikere Sub Division For the Year 2026-27, **(CAT-I). Estimate Cost of Tender (₹ in Lakhs): 35.00, Amount put to tender (₹ in Lakhs): 28.78, EMD (in ₹): 57,570/-.**
3.	Annual Maintenance for Footpath, Desilting Drains, Shoulder and grating cleaning, resetting of broken slabs and paver blocks in Ward No. 50 Sadashivanagara in Mathikere Sub Division For the Year 2026-27, **(Others). Estimate Cost of Tender (₹ in Lakhs): 35.00, Amount put to tender (₹ in Lakhs): 28.78, EMD (in ₹): 57,570/-.**
4.	Annual Maintenance for footpath, Desilting of Drains, Shoulder and grating cleaning, resetting of broken slabs and paver blocks in Ward No, 54, Subedarapalya, in Mathikere Sub Division for the Year 2026-27 **(CAT-II(A). Estimate Cost of Tender (₹ in Lakhs): 35.00, Amount put to tender (₹ in Lakhs): 28.78, EMD (in ₹): 57,570/-.**
5.	Annual Maintenance footpath, Desilting of Drains, Shoulder and grating cleaning, resetting of broken slabs and paver blocks in Ward No 51, Rajmahal in Malleshwaram Sub Division for the year 2026-27. **(Others). Estimate Cost of Tender (₹ in Lakhs): 35.00, Amount put to tender (₹ in Lakhs): 28.74, EMD (in ₹): 57,500/-.**
6.	Annual Maintenance for footpath, Desilting of Drains, Shoulder and grating cleaning, resetting of broken slabs and paver blocks in Ward No. 52, Kodandarampura, in Malleshwaram Sub Division For the Year 2026-27. **(Others). Estimate Cost Tender (₹ in Lakhs): 35.00, Amount put to tender (₹ in Lakhs): 28.75, EMD (in ₹): 57,510/-.**
7.	Annual Maintenance for footpath, Desilting of Drains, Shoulder and grating cleaning, resetting of broken slabs and paver blocks in Ward No. 53, Malleshwaram, in Malleshwaram Sub Division for the Year 2026-27. **(SC). Estimate Cost Tender (₹ in Lakhs): 35.00, Amount put to tender (₹ in Lakhs): 28.75, EMD (in ₹): 57,510/-.**
8.	Annual Maintenance for footpath, Desilting of Drains, Shoulder and grating cleaning, resetting of broken. slabs and paver blocks in Ward No 55, Subramanyanagara, Subramanyanagara Sub Division For the Year 2026-27. **(SC). Estimate Cost Tender (₹ in Lakhs): 35.00, Amount put to tender (₹ in Lakhs): 28.75, EMD (in ₹): 57,510/-.**
9.	Annual Maintenance for footpath, Desilting of Drains, Shoulder and grating cleaning, resetting of broken slabs and paver blocks in Ward No. 56, Gayathrinagara, in Subramanyanagara Sub Division for the Year 2026-27, **(Others). Estimate Cost Tender (₹ in Lakhs): 35.00, Amount put to tender (₹ in Lakhs): 28.75, EMD (in ₹): 57,510/-.**
10.	Annual Maintenance for footpath, Desilting of Drains, Shoulder and grating cleaning, resetting of broken slabs and paver blocks in Ward No. 57, Kuvempu Ward, in Subramanyanagara Sub Division for the Year 2026-27, **(Others).** **Estimate Cost of Tender (₹ in Lakhs): 35.00, Amount put to tender (₹ in Lakhs): 28.75, EMD (in ₹): 57,510/-.**
11.	Pothole filling in Ward No. 48,49,50,54 in Mathikere Sub Division For the Year 2026-27, **(Others). Estimate Cost of Tender (₹ in Lakhs): 80.00, Amount put to tender (₹ in Lakhs): 64.52, EMD (in ₹): 1,30,000/-.**
12.	Pothole filling in Ward No. 51,52,53 in Malleshwaram Sub Division For the Year 2026-27, **(Others). Estimate Cost of Tender (₹ in Lakhs): 60.00, Amount put to tender (₹ in Lakhs): 48.39, EMD (in ₹): 96,800/-.**
13.	Pothole filling in Ward No, 55,56,57 in Subramanyanagara Sub Division For the Year 2026-27, **(Others). Estimate Cost of Tender (₹ in Lakhs): 60.00, Amount put to tender (₹ in Lakhs): 48.39, EMD (in ₹): 96,800/-.**
14.	Annual Maintenance for filling up pothholes and Maintenance of Foothpath and desilting of drain and sholders in arterial and Sub arterial road no 48,49,50 & 54 Matikere Sub Division for the year 2026-27, **(ST). Estimate Cost of Tender (₹ in Lakhs): 60.00, Amount put to tender (₹ in Lakhs): 49.35, EMD (in ₹): 98,720/-.**
15.	Annual Maintenance for filling up pothholes and Maintenance of Foothpath and desilting of drain and sholders in arterial and Sub arterial Road in Ward No.51.52 & 53 Malleshwaram Sub Division for the year 2026-27, **(CAT-II)(A).** **Estimate Cost of Tender (₹ in Lakhs): 45.00, Amount put to tender (₹ in Lakhs): 36.98, EMD (in ₹): 73,970/-.**
16.	Annual Maintenance for filling up pothholes and Maintenance of Foothpath and desilting of drain and sholders in arterial and Sub arterial Road in Ward No. 55,56 & 57, Subramanyanagar Sub Division for the year 2026-27, **(SC).** **Estimate Cost of Tender (₹ in Lakhs): 45.00, Amount put to tender (₹ in Lakhs): 36.99, EMD (in ₹): 73,990/-.**
17.	Additional Works to ongoing BWCC Building at 10th Cross, Parsi Garden in Ward No. 51(57) Rajmahal Nagar, **(Others).** **Estimate Cost of Tender (₹ in Lakhs): 250.00, Amount put to tender (₹ in Lakhs): 206.00, EMD (in ₹): 3,09,000/-.**
18.	Comprehensive Development work of Ramdev Park and Adjacent building in Ward No. 51(57), Rajmahal Nagar, **(Others).** **Estimate Cost of Tender (₹ in Lakhs): 250.00, Amount put to tender (₹ in Lakhs): 206.00, EMD (in ₹): 3,09,000/-.**
19.	Repairs and Maintenance of BWCC building Malleshwaram Constituency, **(Others).** **Estimate Cost of Tender (₹ in Lakhs): 200.00, Amount put to tender (₹ in Lakhs): 168.00, EMD (in ₹): 2,52,000/-.**

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPP Portal from **22.06.2026, 4:30 p.m. onwards (2)** Pre bid Meeting is on **30.06.2026 at 4:00 p.m. (3)** Last Date and Time for uploading tender documents on : **02.07.2026 upto 4:30 p.m. (4)** Opening of Technical document on : **03.07.2026 at 12:00 noon. (5)** Financial bids Opening: date will be intimated through KPP Portal.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Malleshwaram Division, Zone-2, BWCC.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Publication of Tender Notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/186/2026 Dated: 09-06-2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Composite work (Civil & Electrical Genl) for setting up of Quick coach watering system at koteganguru yard. **(Tender Ref. No: KGH-DEPOT-04)**	Rs. 3,68,32,693/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 02-07-2026**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction/Works Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/202/AAF/PRB/SWR/2026-27

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PUBLIC NOTICE

My client propose to purchase a property i.e., the Schedule Property from **Sri. BABU. R.** S/o. Sri. Balaramu, aged about 43 years, residing at No.11, 6th Cross, Krishnamurthy Layout, Balaji Nagar, Tavarekere Main Road, Bangalore 560029 and he represented to my client that he is the absolute owner of the Schedule Property described below with unrestricted rights of alienation over the same and no other person/s has/have any right, title, interest or claim of whatsoever over the same and the property is free from all encumbrances, charges, mortgage and lien and he has not entered into any Agreement for Sale or any other commitment in respect thereof. Any person having any right, title, interest or whatsoever claim against the Schedule Property or having any objection of whatsoever nature to the proposed transaction may, within **10 DAYS** hereof, lodge with us his/her/their/its claim in writing in this behalf with the relevant documentary proof in support of such right, title, interest or claim or objection. If no such claim or objection is received within the said period, my client will presume that no person has any such claim and will proceed with the transaction.

: SCHEDULE PROPERTY :

All the part and parcel of **Property bearing No.61,** Assessment No.66/2C, Bangalore South City Corporation Katha E-PID No.2339986537, Property No.63/66/2C-61, situated at **6th Cross, Krishnamurthy Layout, Balajinagar, S.G. Palya, Tavarekere Main Road, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore,** measuring **East to West: 30-0 ft., North to South:40-0 ft.,** together with the building and bounded on: **East by :** Property belongs to S.A. Ramiah Reddy. **West by:** Site No.62, **North by:** Site No.60. **South by:** Road.

Srinivasa S.A., Advocate
No.79/B, 7th Main, 50 feet Road,
BSK 1st Stage, Bangalore-560 050.
Mob: 9008003449
E-mail : srinilegals@gmail.com
Place : Bangalore Date : 17-06-2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client proposes to purchase the schedule property mentioned herein below from **Mrs. A.S. SAVITHRI,** w/o. Mr. A.K. Sampath, residing at No. 473, 3rd Main, Shastri Nagar, 14th Cross, K.R. Road, Bangalore - 560028. Any person or persons having any claims/objections for the said transaction in respect of the schedule property may lodge their claims/objections with documentary evidence within 15 (FIFTEEN) days from the date of publication of this notice with the undersigned, failing which, thereafter my client shall proceed to complete the transaction and any claims received thereafter will not be entertained.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property being the Western portion of the Vacant Site bearing **No.1082,** EPID No.2439330419 situated at 16th Cross, Banashankari 2nd stage, Bangalore – 560070, measuring about : East to West : 22 feet 2 inches North to South : on the Eastern side : 59 feet 2 inches on the Western side : 56 feet 6 inches Totally measuring : **1320 square feet** and bounded as : East by : Remaining portion of Site No.1082 (Eastern side), West by : Site No. 1081, North by : Site No.1065, South by : Road

A. FEROZE NIZAM, Advocate
No.113, 1st Floor, 34th Cross,
Banashankari 2nd stage,
Bangalore-560070. Mobile : 98860 33332
Email : ferozenizam@gmail.com,
DATE : 16-06-2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that my client, Mrs. Sowmya P., aged 38, wife of Mr. Manjunath R., residing at Mathru Nilaya,1st Main Road, Hebbal, Bengaluru North, Bengaluru - 560024, intends to purchase the immovable property described in the schedule below from the current owner, Mr. Sandeep G. Gaikwad, aged 45, son of Mr. VGK Rao, residing at Maruti Layout, near Florence High School, Nagashetty Halli, RMV Extension II Stage, Bengaluru North, Bengaluru - 560064.

Any person/s, Banks/Financial institutions or any other authority concerned having or claiming any manner of right, title, lien or interest or objection in to or upon the Schedule Property and its else may intimate the same in writing supported by documentary evidence to the undersigned within Seven DAYS from the date of publication hereof, failing which all rights or claims, if any, shall be deemed to have been waived and my client will proceed with the conveyance and obtain the Deed of Absolute Sale of the Schedule Property as if no valid claims are subsisting against the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of property comprising House Site No. 16, Old Ward No. 100 and New Ward No. 18 Radha Krishna Temple of BBMP, bearing PID No./Khatha/Survey No. 23/2, (New PID No.8717813444) measuring 20 feet (East to West) by 55 feet (North to South), totaling 1,100 square feet including residential building consisting of Ground Floor, First Floor and Second Floor, with total built area 167.2 Sq mts (1800 Sq ft). The property is currently addressed as House No. 16, Saraswathi Mandir, Nagashettyhalli, RMV Extension, 2nd Stage, Maruti Layout, near Florence High School, Bengaluru - 560064, and is bounded as follows:

East by : The property belongs to Sri.Narayan and his brothers Sri.Sriniavas, **West by :** Portion of the share allotted to Sri. Chandraiah; **North by:** Road measuring 20 Feet; **South by :** Property belongs to late brother of Sri.Chandra Sekhar Reddy.

Mrs. Usha Chethan, Advocate,
No.10, Ground Floor, Vaastu Hill View III Apt,
near Sparsh Hospital, Gattigere,
Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bengaluru-560092.
Phone : 8904809747

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that my Client Mrs. FOUZIA TARANUM, Wife of Mr. Syed Muiz Pasha, Daughter-in-law of Mr.Syed Kaleemullah, Residing at No.33/16, 6th Cross, 2nd Main, Byrappa Layout, Near Rashidiya Masjid, Govindapura, Arabic Collage Post, Bangalore, Bangalore-560 045. AADHAAR: 2958 8461 9331, She is the absolute Owner of this below mentioned Property. Present Property Owner Mrs. FOUZIA TARANUM, has lost the Connected Original Registered Sale Deed, Vide Registered Document No.KCH-1-02535-2007-08, CD No.KCHD7, DATED:31-12-2007, Registered in the office of the Sub Registrar Kacharakanahalli, Bangalore, and Link Documents. The General Public are hereby informed that nobody shall deal with the said Document and if any person/s are in custody of the same, they are hereby called upon to hand over the same to the under signed immediately. Mrs. FOUZIA TARANUM she is the absolute Owner of this below mentioned Property she is the owner Acquired the rights, title of the schedule Property.

SCHEDULE: ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of the NORTH EASTERN PORTION of the Residential Property Bearing Site No.4, Assessment No.23, Khata No.1836, E PID No.2480020836, Situated at 3rd CROSS, 3rd Left, Gandhinagar, KADUGONDANAHALLI VILLAGE, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore, Presently Comes Within the Jurisdiction of Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagara Palike Ward No.23, Bangalore.

BOUNDED ON THE:

EAST by: Road, WEST by: Remaining Portion of Site No.4, NORTH by: Passage, SOUTH by: Private Property.

MEASURING:- EAST to WEST :14'-0" Feet, and NORTH to SOUTH : 25'-0" Feet,

In all Totally Measuring: 350 Square Feet. The SCHEDULE PROPERTY is Residential RCC Roofed House.

ROSHAN ZAMEER. BA,LL.B.
ADVOCATE
NOOR CHAND ASSOCIATES,
Office No. 02 & 03, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Main Road,Beside Savi Sagar Hotel, Govindapura, Arabic College Post, Bangalore-45. Cell. 9886831826

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 04/2027/SBC Date : 11.06.2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

SN	Tender No.	Description in brief (E-open Tender)	Qty.	Unit
1	L8265924	Supply of parallel clamp (R.I. No 1031-3) with ss bolt nut and washer complete assembly.	16000	Set
		Supply Item Description : Supply of Parallel Clamp (157-65/107/150) (RI no.1031-3) Complete Assembly	1000	Set

Last date for Submission of bids : **Upto 10.30 hrs on 08.07.2026**

For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**

PUB/212/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2026-27 **Senior Divisional Material Maneger, Bengaluru**

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, FATHIMATH Naziya D/o Abdul Rahiman P.M, R/o Yemmemadu Village and Post, Madikeri, Kodagu - Karnataka. I have changed my name from Pathimath Najiya to Fathimath Naziya vide sworn before notary K.S. Chandrashekar, Madikeri, dated 30.05.2026

AFFIDAVIT

I, GEETHA KUPPUSWAMY, D/o Late Kuppuswamy, age 63 years, R/o #237, Avenue Jean Jaures 77550, Moissy, Cramayel, France do hereby declare that both the names i.e. **GEETHA KUPPUSWAMY** and **GEETHA KUPPASWAMY** are one and the same and refers to me only, vide affidavit dated 30-05-2026, sworn before Advocate and Notary **GANESH GOWDA M.V.** at Bangalore.

I, BETALA Lokesam, R/A, flat No. D-85, sector 6, Krishna Public School, Kamal Vihar, Deopuri PO, Raipur, Chhattisgarh-492015, have changed my minor son's name from B.Divyansh to Betala Divyansh vide affidavit dated 15.06.2026 before Notary Y. R. Chandrashekar, Bengaluru.

I, BETALA Lokesam, R/A, flat No. D-85, sector 6, Krishna Public School, Kamal Vihar, Deopuri PO, Raipur, Chhattisgarh-492015, have changed my minor son's name from B. Mohit to Betala Mohit vide affidavit dated 15.06.2026 before Notary Y. R. Chandrashekar, Bengaluru.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
MADRAS RACE CLUB
CIN : U74999TN1922NPL001455
Regd. Office : Race Course Road
Guindy, Chennai – 600032.
Website : www.madrasraceclub.com
Tel. No. 91-44 22351171/2/3/5 & 22350774
Email Id : secretary@madrasraceclub.com

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025-26

Notice is hereby given that the **Annual General Meeting ('AGM')** of the **MADRAS RACE CLUB** ('The Club') for the year 2025-2026 is scheduled to be held on **Tuesday, 14th July 2026 at 4.45 p.m. (IST) at the Registered Office of the Club, situated at Guindy, Chennai – 600 032, and also through Video Conference ("VC") / Other Audio Visual Means ("OAVM")** to transact the business, as set out in the Notice of the AGM. Instructions for Members intending to attend the AGM at the Venue and vote at the venue or join the Annual General Meeting electronically and vote electronically are detailed in the Notice of the AGM.

Notice of the AGM along with the Annual Report 2025-2026 has been sent through electronic mode to those Members whose e-mail addresses are registered with the Club and hard copy has been posted to those who do not have or who have not furnished the email id. The same will also be available on the Club's website at **www.madrasraceclub.com** and on the website of National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL), **www.evoting.nsdl.com** the service providers for assisting such members who wish to participate in the meeting electronically.

Club Members are requested to register / update their email address by writing to the Club with details of their membership number and attaching a self-attested copy of PAN Card as identity proof and self-attested copy of any document (viz. Driving Licence, Election Identity Card, Passport) in support of the address of the member at **secretary@madrasraceclub.com** or to **evoting@nsdl.com**

The Club has engaged the services of NSDL as the authorised agency for assisting Members in participating in the AGM electronically and for providing e-voting facility. Members can cast their vote online from **10.00 A.M. (IST) on Saturday, 11th July 2026, till 5.00 P.M. (IST) on Monday, 13th July 2026.** At the end of remote e-voting period, the facility shall be disabled. The Members who have cast their vote by remote e-voting prior to the AGM may also attend / participate in the AGM through VC / OAVM but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again.

Only those members, whose names are recorded in the Register of Members as on the 'cut-of-date' ie. **Wednesday, 10th June, 2026** only shall be entitled to vote.

In terms of Articles of Association of the Club, no Club Member shall be entitled to vote at or take part in any meeting of the Club until all moneys due to the Club by him have been paid. Hence, Club Members are requested to settle all their dues on or before **4.45 P.M. on Wednesday, 8th July, 2026** in order to cast their vote.

Queries / grievances, if any, with regard to e-voting, may be addressed to the Secretary, Madras Race Club, through e-mail at **secretary@madrasraceclub.com** OR may please visit Help and FAQs section available at **www.evoting.nsdl.com** or contact No. **022 4886 7000.**

By Order of the
Committee of Management of
MADRAS RACE CLUB
S.NIRMAL PRASAD
Secretary
Place : Chennai
Date : 10.06.2026

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EXPLAINER

Scarcity woes: This summer, residents in parts of New Delhi faced days without piped water supply and large families have had to make do with just one 20-litre water can for a day. ANI

Five solutions Indian cities need, to stop fighting for water week after week

Water-secure cities require a combination of clear and transparent emergency planning, systematic reduction of water losses through leak repairs, collective efforts to curb demand, strong safeguards to ensure water quality during shortages, and better management and reuse of wastewater

Manish Dubey
K.V. Santhosh Ragavan

Urban India's water emergency is no longer a future risk. It has become the normal of our summers. From high-rises anxiously tracking tanker schedules to informal settlements queuing at a single standpost, every year brings the same mix of dry taps, frayed tempers, and quiet resignation.

This summer, residents in parts of New Delhi have already faced days without piped water supply and large families have had to make do with just one 20-litre water can for a day. The Delhi Jal Board has reportedly planned to deploy more than 1,000 tankers to manage the crisis. Similar scenes have played out in other major cities, including Chennai, Bengaluru, and Hyderabad, over the last few summers.

Unfortunately, India still treats this as a seasonal inconvenience to endure until the clouds arrive.

Most cities source their water from reservoirs, groundwater or a combination of both. The annual summer water shortage however is the result of choices made over years. Cities have grown faster than their systems. Lakes and tanks have been built over. People are consuming groundwater faster than it can be replenished.

Cities often focus on finding new water sources instead of fixing and maintaining existing networks. Choices around development planning and control, enforcement of groundwater regulations, water use and wastewater management, made by all – from every individual to service providers to policymakers – shape the experience each summer.

Many cities have moved from nearby rivers and lakes to distant sources and rapidly depleting groundwater, sinking more borewells and laying longer pipelines. What looks like a sudden shortage is often the result of this slow erosion of local buffers. At the same time, lakes, tanks, ponds and stormwater channels that once softened both floods and droughts have been encroached upon or converted, so a few hours of intense rain can flood streets and, a few weeks later, the same city is again queuing for tankers.

Beyond short-term coping

For many residents, especially in poorer settlements and smaller towns, the crisis is also about quality. Intermittent supply, leaky pipes, and unsafe storage mean that even when water arrives, it may not be safe to drink. The familiar scenes of tankers, angry protests, and frantic borewell drilling are therefore not one-offs. They are symptoms of a chronic condition that shows up in illness, lost workdays and mounting bills.

If we accept this, we will also realise that coping from week to week is no longer enough.

First, every city needs an honest and public emergency water plan. Residents should not have to rely on rumours to know what is happening. A basic plan would identify the most vulnerable wards and critical facilities, set simple rules for how water will be prioritised when supplies are tight such as duration and frequency of supply to enable better tail end distribution, and commit to regular public updates on storage levels and expected supply. Where such information is shared clearly, it manages expectations and reduces grievances; this is less about technology than about treating information as part of the service.

Second, a concerted effort must be made to recover water that is already in the system but never reaches the taps. Instead of announcing distant, expensive new sources, cities can launch a time-bound 'leak hunt' in the worst-affected zones: walk key stretches of the network, fix visible leaks quickly, use simple tools to detect hidden ones, and set a short-term target for cutting losses. In systems where a large share – nearly 30% – of water is lost before it reaches users, even modest reductions in a few high-loss areas is equivalent to creating a new local source without building a new pipeline.

Third, government buildings, big campuses and commercial complexes are among the steadiest consumers of water. And a quick internal audit, basic leak repairs, and simple efficiency measures over the next month can free up meaningful volumes and set an example. Neighbourhoods and resident groups can agree on clear norms for peak months, limiting non-essential uses, tracking weekly consumption and asking tanker suppliers where they draw their water from – while local leaders in low-income areas help authorities see how supply actually reaches their lanes.

Fourth, any emergency response must include water quality: rapid testing in high-risk neighbourhoods and tanker water supply, temporary support for basic treatment where problems are found, and simple communication about safe storage.

Finally, water security cannot be achieved without improving how we manage used-water. Measures to reduce leaks in water pipelines should also be used on sewer networks to identify and stop major sewage exfiltration and prevent contamination.

Not a single solution

Quick, low-cost upgrades to used-water treatment plants such as, optimising aeration, de-weeding, and desludging, can further reduce pollution and help augment available surface- and ground-water resources.

No single measure will pull Indian cities out of their water emergency. Together, however, they can directly address the summer's pain points: unpredictability, waste, inequity, and illness.

Manish Dubey is Dean & Rahul Bajaj Chair, School of Governance, Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS). K.V. Santhosh Ragavan is Adjunct Faculty, IIHS.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Iceland observes June 17 as the National Day. A quiz on the island country

V.V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1
What do the colours on the Icelandic National flag (Blue, White and Red) represent?

QUESTION 2
Who is Jón Sigurdson in the modern history of the Nordic island country?

QUESTION 3
Name the volcano whose eruption in 2010 created a massive ash cloud that grounded thousands of flights across Europe.

QUESTION 4
Name the 13th-century book by Icelandic author Snorri Sturluson that serves as a primary source for Norse mythology.

QUESTION 5
What is the name given to the popular traditional Icelandic knitted sweater known for its bold, circular yoke pattern around the neck and shoulders?

QUESTION 6
Often mistaken as yogurt due to its creamy texture, what dairy product is technically classified as a soft cheese?

QUESTION 7
Which natural phenomenon inspired the first Norse settlers to give the National capital Reykjavík (smoky bay) its name?

Visual question: Who is this famous Icelandic singer? AP

Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:
1. This U.S. AI firm temporarily disabled top-tier model access after a government order on foreign use. **Ans: Anthropic**
2. This country announced plans for a social media ban for under-16s last week. **Ans: Britain**
3. This initiative was launched by Narendra Modi and Emmanuel Macron in France? **Ans: Bharat Innovates 2026**
4. Elon Musk achieved this milestone following SpaceX's IPO on June 12? **Ans: He became world's first trillionaire**
5. This external AI ecosystem powers Apple's rebuilt Siri. **Ans: Google Gemini**
6. This Indian fintech firm confidentially filed papers for a $600 million IPO. **Ans: Razorpay**
8. This Indian edtech founder got some relief from a Singapore court in a contempt case. **Ans:Byju Raveendran**
Visual: At Nintendo's June Direct, the long-rumoured remake of this beloved N64-era video game was announced. **Ans: The Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time**

Early Birds
Sudhir Thapa | Sunil Madhavan | Pulkit Sathe | Dodo Jayaditya | Sadhan Panda

Know your English

S. Upendran

"How do you pronounce r..e..n..d..e..z..v..o..u..s?"

"The 'e' in the first syllable is like the 'o' in 'hot', and 'pot'. The 'e' in the second syllable sounds like the 'i' in 'hit', 'pit', and 'kit'. Some people, however, pronounce it like the 'ay' in 'day', and 'hay'. The final 'ous' is pronounced like the 'oo' in 'cool', and 'fool'."

"The Y is silent, is it?"

"That's right."

"What about the stress? Is it on the first syllable?"

"Yes. By the way, the 'z' in the second syllable remains silent as well."

"Then why have it all?"

"Don't ask me. Do you know what the word 'rendezvous' means?"

"Well, I can guess the meaning from the context. This article that I am reading right now says that the gym was the rendezvous for the well-known film star and his bookmaker."

"So, what do you think the word means?"

"A rendezvous is probably a place where you meet someone secretly."

"Excellent. When you have a rendezvous with someone, you decide where you are going to meet the person and when."

"In other words, the meeting is prearranged."

"Yes. If you bump into someone accidentally, you cannot call it a rendezvous."

"I see. Give me some examples."

"Okay. Ramesh promised to meet Sujatha in the Rose Garden at 4:00 o'clock. But as usual, he was late for the rendezvous."

"Can I say the two Ministers had an early morning rendezvous in Chennai?"

"Sounds good. The word is also used to mean a popular meeting place. For example, the gym is a rendezvous for health nuts."

"Prof. Shyamraj's house is a rendezvous for budding writers."

"That's an excellent example. Anyway, what is it that you are reading?"

"Oh some article about how Bollywood is slowly being taken over by the mafia. Tell me, do you believe in everything you read?"

"I don't believe everything I read."

"But many people believe in everything they read."

"Believe everything they read. Not 'believe in'."

"Really? What's the difference between 'believe' and 'believe in'?"

"When you 'believe in' something, you take it for granted that it really exists. For example, many people believe in ghosts."

"I don't believe in angels. Can I say that?"

"That's right. But that's not the only meaning of 'believe in'. For example, when you say 'I believe in democracy', you mean to say is that, in your opinion democracy is good."

"Now tell me, what does 'believe' mean? I mean...."

"...when you believe something, you accept everything that someone says as being true or real. That's one of the meanings. For example, like an idiot I believed everything he said."

"Good grief! Look at the time. I have a rendezvous with Sachi at 4:00 p.m. Do you think I'll make it."

"I believe you will."

Word of the day

Salvo:
an outburst resembling the discharge of firearms or the release of bombs a sudden outburst of cheers

Synonyms: Volley, Burst

Usage: *The jets dropped a salvo of bombs over the target area. There was a sudden salvo of approval.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/salvo

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈsæl.vəʊ/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

2 held for stealing gold valuables worth ₹1.64 cr.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Malleswaram police have arrested two inter-State fraudsters for allegedly cheating a Bengaluru-based jeweller of gold ornaments and gold bullion worth ₹1.64 crore by posing as prospective buyers.

The arrested accused have been identified as Paresh Soni, 49, from Gujarat and Praveen Pappu, 44, from Maharashtra. The police said two of their associates are absconding.

The case was registered at the Malleswaram Police Station following a complaint filed by a jeweller from Chickpet on May 16. The complainant alleged that the accused had approached him expressing interest in purchasing gold ornaments in bulk. He carried around 1.514 kg of gold ornaments to an office on Sampige Road in Malleswaram for inspection and photography. However, the accused allegedly diverted his attention and fled with the gold ornaments.

The police apprehended one of the accused near Anand Rao Circle at Seshadripuram on May 18. On being questioned, he allegedly confessed to the crime, and revealed the names of his associates.

Subsequently, the police tracked down and arrested another accused in Maharashtra on May 20. Investigation revealed that a portion of the stolen gold, weighing about 220 gm, had been sold in a jewellery shop at Zaveri Bazaar in Mumbai. A police team recovered the gold bullion from the shop.

Further investigation led to the recovery of more gold ornaments from locations in Chickpet, Avalahalli, and Guttahalli between May 24 and May 30.

'FIRs must in non-consensual intimate content sharing cases'

The order comes amid concerns that some police stations were refusing or delaying the registration of complaints on the grounds that the victims had initially consented to the recording of the images or videos

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

M.A. Saleem FILE PHOTO

The Karnataka police have issued comprehensive guidelines mandating the registration of FIRs in cases involving the unauthorised sharing of private or intimate photographs and videos, including incidents of revenge pornography, sextortion, and online blackmail.

In a Standing Order issued on Monday, Director-General and Inspector-General of Police (DG and IGP) M.A. Saleem directed all police officers across the State to take prompt action on complaints related to the non-consensual dissemination of intimate content and ensure uniform implementation of the law.

The order comes amid concerns that some police stations were refusing or delaying the registration of complaints on the grounds that the victims had initially consented to the recording of the images or videos.

Clarifying the legal position, the DG&IGP stated that consent to capture an image or video does not amount to consent for its publication or circulation.

Landmark judgment

The directive cites the Supreme Court's landmark judgment in Justice K.S. Puttaswamy (Retd.) vs Union of India, which recognised the right to privacy as a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution.

Police officers have been instructed to invoke appropriate provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, and the Information Technology Act, 2000, while registering cases. These include Section 77 of the BNS relating to voyeurism, Section 66E of the IT Act concerning violation of privacy, and Sections 67 and 67A dealing with the publication or transmission of obscene and sexually explicit material in electronic form.

The Standing Order makes it clear that FIRs must be registered immediately upon receipt of complaints involving unauthorised sharing of intimate content, regardless of whether the victim had earlier consented to the recording of the material.

In cases where intimate images or videos are used to extort money, sexual favours or other benefits, investigating officers have been directed to invoke relevant provisions relating to extortion and criminal intimidation in addition to cybercrime offences.

The order also reiterates the mandatory registration of Zero FIRs when offences occur outside the territorial jurisdiction of the police station receiving the complaint.

Such cases must subsequently be transferred to the appropriate police station without delay, the order stated.

To prevent further harm to victims, police have been directed to coordinate with online platforms and intermediaries for the swift removal or blocking of objectionable content while preserving digital evidence for investigation and prosecution.

The DGP has also emphasised the protection of victims' identities and directed officers to handle complainants with sensitivity and dignity. Wherever possible, complaints from women victims should be recorded by women police officers.

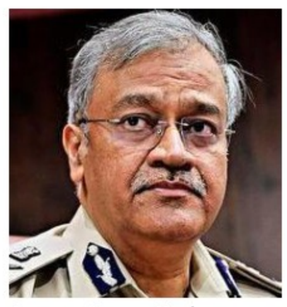
Further, investigating officers have been asked to coordinate with Cyber Crime Police Stations and the CID Cyber Division for technical investigations, account tracing, and forensic analysis of digital devices.

Warning against inaction, the DGP stated that refusal to register FIRs or unnecessary delays in such cases would be viewed seriously and could attract disciplinary action against the concerned officers.

The Standing Order has been circulated to all police units across Karnataka for immediate compliance.

Police examining legal options to revoke KSPCA orders on rowdy sheets

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU


Seemant Kumar Singh FILE PHOTO

Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh has said the police department is examining legal options to revoke recent orders by the Karnataka State Police Complaints Authority (KSPCA) directing the closure of rowdy sheets against several alleged offenders, including notorious rowdy-sheeter Sunil Kumar alias 'Silent' Sunil.

Speaking to reporters, Mr. Singh said seven rowdy-sheeters in Bengaluru and 66 across the State are affected by orders directing the removal of their names from rowdy registers. "We are verifying the documents and examining the legal aspects to revoke the orders. The matter is also being discussed with the State police chief for necessary directions," the Commissioner said.

When asked about measures being adopted to curb rowdy activities, Mr. Singh said the police have effective mechanisms in place, but declined to disclose details.

The development comes after the KSPCA directed the closure of the rowdy sheet maintained against Silent Sunil, citing procedural lapses by the police and non-compliance with guidelines laid down by the High Court. The order was passed by a three-member Bench headed by N.K. Sudhindra Rao, along with member Mohan Kumar Danappa, and member-secretary Devajyoti Ray.

Focus on working in rural areas: CM to graduates

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar speaking at RGUHS's annual convocation in Bengaluru on Tuesday. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

"India is now at the crossroads of social and technological transformation. It has seen cutting-edge innovations in the field of medical education and health. You should not focus only on providing health services in urban areas, but also focus on providing health services in rural areas," said Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, speaking after conferring degrees on medical and nursing students at the annual convocation of the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences held on the GKVK campus here on Tuesday.

Mr. Shivakumar added, "By working in rural areas, healthcare professionals can stop rural people from coming to urban areas in search of medical treatment. Karnataka has the highest number of health science colleges in the country."

"This is the first convocation I have attended after assuming office as Chief Minister. I am a farmer by birth, a businessman by profession, an educationist by choice, and a politician by interest. Therefore, I am very concerned about the development of education, especially medical education," he said.

Meanwhile, Medical Education Minister Sharan Prakash Patil announced the establishment of a cancer hospital, medical college, and trauma care centre in every district.

He said, "The government is working towards establishing government medical colleges, cancer hospitals, and trauma care centres in every district of the State. The government aspires that the common people of Karnataka get good, quality, and affordable healthcare services in their own State, he said.

Nailady Sridhar Shetty, former president, Dental Council of India, Harshangi Veerabhadrappa, renowned paediatrician, and A.C. Shanmugam, founder-chancellor of Rajarajeshwari Medical College and Hospital, were conferred with honorary doctorates in recognition of their distinguished service in the fields of education, health, and social service.

A total of 103 students were awarded gold medals for scoring the highest marks in various disciplines. More than 72,000 were awarded degrees.

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			Total	04	
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Passengers seek extension of two trains from North Karnataka to KSR station

Commuters argue that the station offers significantly better connectivity through the Namma Metro network and BMTC buses making it a more convenient boarding point for passengers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Many passengers prefer to board long-distance trains from the KSR Bengaluru Railway Station, as it saves both time and travel costs. K. MURALI KUMAR

Rail users in Bengaluru have renewed their demand for extension of the Bengaluru-Bidar Express service and Vande Bharat Express, connecting Bengaluru and Kalaburagi, to Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna (KSR) Bengaluru Railway Station at Majestic. The trains currrently originate and terminate at Sir M. Visvesvaraya Terminal (SMVT).

Commuters argue that the KSR Bengaluru Railway Station, located in the heart of the city, offers better connectivity through the Namma Metro network and BMTC buses, making it a more convenient boarding point for passengers.

"Reaching SMVT is often a challenge, especially for passengers coming from western and northern parts of Bengaluru. The KSR station can be accessed easily through multiple metro lines and bus routes. Many passengers prefer to board long-distance trains from the KSR, as it saves both time and travel costs," said Murali Kumar, a resident of Jalahalli.

Several passengers pointed out that travelling to the SMVT becomes difficult during late-night and early-morning hours when public transport services are less frequent.

"Many of us have to leave home well in advance or depend on expensive cab services to reach the SMVT for late-night departures. When trains arrive in the early hours, finding reliable transport from the station can also be a challenge. A terminal in the city centre would greatly improve convenience," said Shankar Ram, a frequent rail commuter from Rajajinagar.

Passengers point out that travelling to the SMVT becomes difficult during odd hours

The railway officials said that SMVT was developed primarily to ease congestion at Bengaluru's busy railway stations and redistribute train operations across the city. However, passengers believe that the terminal's location continues to pose accessibility issues despite serving this purpose.

According to the officials, the Railway Board initially proposed the Cantonment station as the train's terminal when the service was approved. However, the absence of critical infrastructure such as pit-line and charging facilities resulted in the SMVT being designated as a temporary terminal.

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A Business Initiative

Conferment of Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa) by Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences

Dr. A. C. Shanmugam is a renowned educationist, healthcare pioneer, and philanthropist who has dedicated over five decades to advancing education and healthcare in India. As the founder of more than 35 institutions across South India, he has empowered thousands of students and improved access to quality medical care for lakhs of patients. His humanitarian initiatives, including scholarships, rural healthcare programs, support for orphaned children, and free medical services, have transformed countless lives. In recognition of his exceptional contributions to education, healthcare, and society, he was awarded the Doctor of Sciences (Honoris Causa) by Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences.

East Point Engineering Students develop IoT-based Smart Women Safety Device with Real-Time Emergency Alert

Students from the Department of Computer Science & Engineering at East Point College of Engineering & Technology (EPCET), Bengaluru, developed a Smart Women Security System Using IoT, a wearable safety device designed to enhance women's personal security through real-time emergency assistance. Created by students Abhinav Mallappa Radder, Abhishek Gowda MS, Madhan M S, and Rekha S under the guidance of Dr. Kesavan M V, the system combines GPS, GSM, IoT sensors, cloud connectivity, and health monitoring technologies. Key features include GPS tracking, GSM-based alerts, alcohol detection, health monitoring, camera activation for evidence collection, and a low-voltage self-defense mechanism. Future enhancements may include AI-based threat detection, mobile app integration, and direct connectivity with emergency services.

"Space on wheel" at Sapthagiri NPS University

The Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering organized the "Space on Wheels" event at Sapthagiri NPS University in collaboration with ISRO's outreach initiative. Space on Wheels is a mobile exhibition program designed to promote space science education by bringing interactive exhibits, satellite technology demonstrations, launch vehicle models, virtual reality experiences, hands-on activities, and career guidance directly to students and communities, including those in remote areas. The event aims to inspire young minds, foster scientific curiosity, and encourage careers in space science and technology. More than 5,000 students have visited the exhibition, reflecting its significant impact on science outreach and education.

KPSC – Training workshop

Pradeep Eshwar inaugurated a free KPSC training workshop for students from his constituency at the Municipal College. Expert KPSC and UPSC trainers from Vijayapura (Bijapur), Dharwad, and Bengaluru have been invited to conduct the training. The MLA will provide study materials, as well as breakfast and lunch for participating students. The event was attended by Jinendra Kanagavi and renowned historian Gejje.

Ramaiah Medical College holds RUAS 10th Annual Convocation Ceremony; Students Honoured with Medals and Academic Awards

The 10th Annual Convocation Ceremony of Ramaiah Medical College, a constituent institution of Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences recently at the college auditorium. The event began with the Ramaiah Anthem and was formally declared open by Chancellor Dr. M.R. Jayaram. In his address, Dr. Jayaram highlighted India's Ayurvedic heritage, encouraged global knowledge-sharing, and urged graduates to prioritize character, service, and integrity. Chief Guest Dr. David L. Reich praised the vision of M.S. Ramaiah and commended the institution's commitment to service and excellence. He also acknowledged the crucial role of parents in the graduates' success. The ceremony featured the release of the Convocation Proceedings and Patent Book, recognition of outstanding students with medals and awards, and the conferment of degrees. The event concluded with a renewed commitment by the graduating doctors to serve society with knowledge, compassion, and integrity.

KARNATAKA CO-OPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS' FEDERATION LIMITED
KMF Complex, Dr. M.H. Marigowda Road, DRC Post, Bengaluru-560 029.
Tel: 080-25536625, 25536789 E-mail: kmfengg@gmail.com

IFT No: KMF/ENGG/ Milk Flow Meter-NMP/02279/2026-27 Date: 16-06-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

[Two cover System] [Through KPP Portal only]

Karnataka Milk Federation Ltd; Bengaluru invites Short term Tender from the eligible manufacturers/ authorised dealer through KPP Portal for the works mentioned in the table below. The interested manufacturers /Suppliers who have handled similar kind of works may participate in the tender as indicated below, by logging on to website **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and also contact Help desk E-mail; hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com and helpline no. 080-25501227/ 25501216.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Qty.	EMD (Rs.)	Period of Completion
1	Supply, erection, testing & Commissioning of Milk Flow Meter, software installation & Other related works to NMP Bengaluru	1 Job	18,750/-	3 months

1. Tender schedules may be downloaded from dated: **17-06-2026 to 24-06-2026 upto 4.00 PM. 2.** Last date for Tender submission on date: **24-06-2026 up to 4.00 PM. 3.** Tender [Part 1] to be opened on date: **25-06-2026 at 4:30 PM.** Hence forth changes / modification in the tender, It will be uploaded on KPPP portal only.

For Karnataka Milk Federation Limited
Sd/- Director [Engineering-2]

Govt.of Karnataka
Government General Hospital Hospet

No/ghh/Tender/50/2026-27 Date:11.06.2026

Publication of e-tender

Tender are invited through e-procurement in Two cover type for the recruitment of Ready Food supply for patients Govt. Genral Hospital, Hospet for the year 2026-27. Interested and eligible tenderers are requested to submit tender through e-procurement platform within the stipulated time. e-Tender No.: **GHH/TENDER/50 /2026-27.** E-Procurement Tender No: **DHFWS/2026-27/SE2286.** Commencement of downloading of e-Tender forms from website: **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Date: 11-06-2026 to 30-06-2026 evening @ 04.30 p.m.** Last Date for seeking clarification if any: **Date:30-06-2026 up to 11:00 am.** Last date for uploading of Tender in e-procurement platform: **Date:01-07-2026 evening @ 04.30 P.M.** Date, Time & Venue of Opening of Tenders: **Date:02-07-2026 @ 04.30 p.m in the office of the Surgeon, Govt. General Hospital, Hospet through e-procument platform.** EMD: **Rs.2,25,000/-.** ANNUAL TENDER AMOUNT: **Rs.90,00,000/-**

Tenderers registered in eprocurement can get information about tender processing fee, EMD, tender form etc., through the Karnataka Government e-procurement portal website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in or contact the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Surgeon Govt. General Hospital Hospet.

DIPR/Vijayanagar/2026-27/KSMCA/RO No/144

VISVESVARAYA TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
"Jnana Sangama", Belagavi - 590018, Karnataka

Ref.No: VTU/BGM/RE/2026-27/IFT No.35/1228 Date: 16-06-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (3rd CALL)
(Two Cover System) - (Through KPP Portal Only)

The e-Tenders is invited in duplicate from eligible Tenderers, registered Contractor, by the Registrar, Visvesvaraya Technological University, "Jnana Sangama", Belagavi - 18, under standard tender document procedure K/W format for the work of **Repair and Renovation of Hostels of VTU, Regional Center, Mysuru. Amounting to Rs. 1,52,45,418/- (Excluding GST) (3rd Call).** Other details log on to Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on 18-06-2026.**

Sd/- Registrar
VTU, Belagavi

DIPR/Belagavi/440/Adverto/2026-27

AYUSH DEPARTMENT
Dhanvanthri Road, Bengaluru-560 009.
Phone: 080-22876553, Fax: 080-22340139,
e-mail: directorayush.eproc@gmail.com

No: AYUSH/13/PROC/2026 Date: 16-06-2026

SHORT TERM RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through KPP Portal Only)

Short Term re-tender in Two Document System invited from the Tender inviting Authority and Accounts Officer, Directorate of AYUSH and subordinate offices, Bengaluru for the Data Entry Operator workers under State Scheme, as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements Act 1999-2000 Rules there under.

Calendar of Events

1.	The Tender document will be available in KPP Portal	**from 16.06.2026**
2.	Last date for uploading tender documents through KPP Portal	**24.06.2026 upto 4:30 p.m.**
3.	Date of opening of Technical Bid	**25.06.2026 at 5:00 p.m.**
4.	Date of opening of Financial Bid	**29.06.2026 at 11:30 a.m.**

For further details may be viewed at below website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/-
Accounts Officer/Chairman

DIPR/CP/RO1182/AAPL/2026-27

Zilla Panchayath, Tumkur
Office of the Executive Engineer,
P.R.E. Division, Madhugiri

Tender Notification no:03/2026-27
Dated: 12.06.2026

Behalf of Governor of Karnataka, Tender for Various works under Various Head of accounts of P.R.E. Division, Madhugiri have been published in e portal. Registered and Eligible contractors may submit the bids within 19-06-2026 upto 16.00 PM through e procurement website. For more details Contact Ph. 080-25501216, 080-25501227 or visit http:/ www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
P.R.E Division, Madhugiri

DIPR/TUM/108/KSMCA/2026-27

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ಧಾರವಾಡ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು,
ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಧಾರವಾಡ

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.ಪಂ.ರಾ.ಇಂ.ವಿ.ಧಾ/ಸ.ಇಂ.–2/2026–2027/915 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 16–06–2026.

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ –04/2026–27
(ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಗೌರವಾನ್ವಿತ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರ್, ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಧಾರವಾಡ ಇವರಿಂದ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಆದೇಶ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: No.FD 876 Exp-12/2017, Bangalore, dated: 15–09–2017 ರನ್ವಯ ವಿವಿಧ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ನಿಗದಿತ ನಮೂನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ/ಪಂ.ರಾ.ಇಂ. ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟಿರುವ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ಸ್ **KW-1, KW-2, KW-3** ರಲ್ಲಿಯ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಆದೇಶ 2000 ರನ್ವಯ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್‌ನ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/** ನಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು.

Indent Numbers :
General : 26403, 26769, 26404, 26431, 26411 ,26772, 26438/Call-2 26445/Call-2, 26526/Call-2, 26529/Call-2, 24812/Call-2 24801/Call-2, 26430/Call-2, 24390/Call-2, 24507/Call-2 24473/Call-2, 26963/Call-2.
SC Category : 26774, 26698, 24333/Call-2, 24320/Call-2.
ST Category : 26773, 26402, 24348/Call-2, 24808/Call-2.
CAT-2 (A) : 26425, 26408.
CAT-1 : 23958/Call-2

ಕ್ಯಾಲೆಂಡರ್ ಆಫ್ ಇವೆಂಟ್ಸ್:

1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 18–06–2026** ರಿಂದ ಡೌನಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29–06–2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ** ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು. 2) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 30–06–2026 ರ ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.** ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿದವರ ಕಚೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ.

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು/ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ಅರ್ಹತೆ/ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಿಯಮ/ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳು/ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರೋಸೆಸ್ಸಿಂಗ್ ಶುಲ್ಕ/ EMD ಮೊತ್ತ ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/** ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು ಅಥವಾ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿದವರ ಕಚೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ವಿಷಯ ನಿರ್ವಾಹಕರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣ ನೀಡದೇ, ಯಾವುದೇ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಅಥವಾ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರವನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– (ಶ್ರೀ ಶ್ರೀಶೈಲ ಹೊನಕೇರಿ)
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು,
ಪಂ.ರಾ.ಇಂ.ವಿಭಾಗ, ಧಾರವಾಡ.

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ಧಾರವಾಡ/313/ದೇಶಪಾಂಡೆಪಬ್ಲಿಟಿ/2026–27

UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES
ESTATE OFFICE, GKVK, BENGALURU-560 065

NO. EO/TN/MP COST OF CULTIVATION/3/2026-27 DATED :14-06-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-procurement portal only)

The University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore has invited Tender in Two cover system in the prescribed form from the reputed Manpower supply Agencies for the following works. The details of the notification, condition of two cover system, schedule, specifications, terms and conditions are available in the website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.The cost of tender document is as per e-procurement portal. The EMD has to be paid in the e-procurement portal using e-procurement payment mode.

Sl. No.	Description	Amount put to Tender (in lakhs)	E.M.D	Duration
1	Supply of Manpower personnel to Cost of cultivation of Principal Crops in Karnataka, Department of Agricultural Economics at UAS, Bangalore.	268.00	4,02,000.00	11 months

The above Tender will be under two cover system and the conditions for two cover systems is also uploaded in the website.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

1.	Pre-bid Meeting at 10.30 a.m.	30-06-2026
2.	Last date for uploading of Tender upto 4.00 p.m.	02-07-2026
3.	Opening of Technical Bid at 10.30 a.m.	06-07-2026
4.	Opening of Financial Bid at 10.30 a.m.	09-07-2026

Further, details can be had from the office of the undersigned during working hours and Phone Number 080-23332765. For more details please contact e-portal **help desk @ support@eprochelpdesk.com or 8046010000/8068948777** on working days.

Sd/-
Estate Officer

DIPR/CP/1179/AKAR/2026-27

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Byatarayanapura Division, Zone-1, No. 2152/20,Defence colony, 9th Main, D Block, Sahakarnagara, BNCC office, Bangalore-560092

No: BNCC-Z1/EE/BTP/KPPP/PR/05/2026-27 Date:15-06-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

Tenders on item rate basis are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Chief Commissioner BNCC for the works mentioned below from the registered contractors of Bengaluru North City Corporation, or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES or any State Government Organizations.

The Tender Document can be downloaded from the GOK KPPP Website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on payment of prescribed fee noted against each item of work (nonrefundable) in the form of e-Payment through KPPP Platform. The Tenderer should accompany a copy of the valid contractor Registration and shall be submitted through KPP Portal. (Standard Tender Document KW-1,2,3,4).

Sl. No.	Name of the Work/Est Cost (in Lakhs)/EMD in Rupees/Category.
	TWO COVER SYSTEM
1	Annual Maintenance of SWD in Byatarayanapura Division for the year 2026-27/Call-3. Approximate value : **Rs.175.00 Lakhs,** EMD **Rs.2,62,500/-**, Category : **Others.**

Calendar of events: (1) Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on 19-06-2026 at 15:00 Hrs noon in the office of the Executive Engineer Byatarayanapura Division, No. 2152/20, Defence colony, BWSSB tank road, Sahakarnagara office, Bangalore-560 092. **(2)** Last Date for uploading the Filled proposals is on **24-06-2026 up to 16:00 hours. (3)** Date of Opening of Technical Bid is **25-06-2026 after 16:00 hours. (4)** Date of Opening of Financial Bid after Approval of Technical BID.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Byatarayanapura Division, Zone-1
Bengaluru North City Corporation

ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ
ಗೌರಿಬಿದನೂರು, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ.

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ನ.ಸ.ಗೌ/ತಾ.ಶಾ/ಪಿ.ಆರ್/70/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ:10.06.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು ನಗರಸಭೆ ಗೌರಿಬಿದನೂರು ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ. ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ರವರ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 2000ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಯವರ ಮೂಲಸೌಕರ್ಯ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ (CMIDP) ಅನುದಾನ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು standard bidding documents KW-1 ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಸ್ತಾವೇಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ **(1)** DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT 56381. **(2)** DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT 56382. **(3)** DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT 56383 (ST Reservation). **(4)** DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT 56384. **(5)** DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT 56385. **(6)** DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT 56387(CAT-IIA Reservation). **(7)** DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT 56389(SC Reservation). **(8)** DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT 56390(CAT-IIA Reservation). **(9)** DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT 56392. **(10)** DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT 56393. **(11)** DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT 56394. **(12)** DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT 56395(SC Reservation). **(13)** DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT 56396(SC Reservation). **(14)** DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT 56397. **(15)** DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT 56398. ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. (1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29.06.2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಘಂಟೆ** (2) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 30.06.2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಘಂಟೆ** (3) ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಹಾಗೂ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ನಗರಸಭೆಯ ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು/ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಶಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಸಹಿ/–
ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು, ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು/ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು
ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಗೌರಿಬಿದನೂರು ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಗೌರಿಬಿದನೂರು

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ/ಆರ್.ಓ.ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:102/ಕೆ.ಎಸ್.ಎಂ.ಸಿ.ಎ/2026–27

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Vishwas ke, Vikas ke, Jan-kalyan ke

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Delivering National Vision at Scale

From Policy Design to Last-Mile Delivery Across Uttar Pradesh

From housing and healthcare to food security, farmer welfare, women's empowerment and livelihood support, major national programmes have reached millions across Uttar Pradesh. Through coordinated administration, citizen outreach and focused execution, these initiatives have translated into measurable improvements in quality of life. As the nation marks 12 years of development-oriented governance, Uttar Pradesh stands as a significant example of how large-scale public programmes can generate meaningful outcomes for households, communities and local economies.

From Vision to Impact: Uttar Pradesh's Delivery Journey

Over the last 12 years, flagship programmes have expanded access, strengthened systems and empowered citizens across every corner of the state.

Effective implementation is where policy becomes progress.

With a focus on inclusion, transparency and accessibility, these initiatives have built stronger communities, enhanced opportunities and improved quality of life. The experience of Uttar Pradesh demonstrates how decisive execution can turn national vision into lasting outcomes.

12 YEARS OF CONTINUOUS PROGRESS

- **2014** — Expansion of **PMAY** across rural and urban Uttar Pradesh.
- **PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana** — Strengthens food security for crores of families.
- **Ayushman Bharat** — Rollout, ensuring quality healthcare access.
- **PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana** — Promotes clean energy adoption.
- **PM SVANidhi** — Provides support to street vendors and small enterprises.
- **PM Kisan Samman Nidhi** — Expanded, reaching crores of farmers.
- **PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana** — Equips youth with skills for better jobs.
- **Drone Didi Yojana** — Empowers women in technology and innovation.
- **2026 and beyond**

NATION FIRST: Uttar Pradesh's Contribution

Powering India's Progress. Strengthening the Nation.

Uttar Pradesh has emerged as a national leader across welfare delivery, infrastructure development, agriculture, energy access and economic growth, setting benchmarks and creating lasting value.

- **₹3,12,928 crore** in sugarcane payments made to farmers
- **2.86 crore** Free electricity connections under Saubhagya Yojana
- **1.86 crore** Free LPG connections under Ujjwala Yojana
- **3.31+ crore** Individual household toilets (Izzat Ghar) constructed
- **No. 1 in the country** for Simultaneous construction of five expressways
- Highest **COVID-19 tests** and **vaccinations** in the country
- **Ayodhya Deepotsav** set a world record
- **242.13+ crore** Trees planted, setting a record
- **No. 1 in the country** Establishment of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)
- **ODOP** Scheme gained national recognition

Development Measured in Lives Touched

Behind every number is a story of change. A family moving into a new home, a patient receiving treatment, a farmer getting timely support, a youth finding employment or a woman leading a self-help group, these are the faces of transformation in Uttar Pradesh. When policy meets effective implementation, benefits reach every household, every field and every enterprise.

THE ROAD AHEAD

With continued focus on access, inclusion and efficient delivery, Uttar Pradesh will build on the gains of the past 12 years, expanding opportunities, strengthening livelihoods and improving quality of life for all.

> "The true measure of development lies in the reach of opportunity, the quality of services and the number of lives positively impacted."

UTTAR PRADESH AT A GLANCE

- **62 Lakh** Families covered under **PM Awaas Yojana**
- **15 Crore** Beneficiaries under **PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana**
- **5.76 Crore** **Ayushman** Cards Issued
- **5.60 Lakh+** Solar Installations under **PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana**
- **15.31 Lakh** Street Vendors Supported under **PM SVANidhi**
- **3.12 Crore** Farmers Covered under **PM Kisan Samman Nidhi**
- **₹99,032.58 Cr.** Transferred to Farmers so far under **PM Kisan Samman Nidhi**
- **14 Lakh** Youth Trained under **PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana**
- **9 Lakh+** Youth secured **Government Employment**
- **60 Lakh** Mother's benefitted under **PM Matru Vandana Yojana**
- **457** Didis Trained under **Namo Drone Didi Yojana**

A BG-BGE

My letter has been written on behalf of State govt.: Priyank

Home Minister asserts that the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh cannot say it will not reply to the eight questions in the letter sent to Bhagwat

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Asserting that Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh chief Mohan Bhagwat's stand that there is no need to respond to questions on registration of the sangh as "unacceptable", Karnataka Home Minister Priyank Kharge on Tuesday said the government will wait for sometime and decide on the next course of action if there is no reply.

"The RSS cannot say that it will not reply (to the eight questions posed by him in a letter to Mr. Bhagwat) because they are being asked by the Karnataka government and not by Mr. [Priyank] Kharge as an individual," the Home Minister told presspersons in New Delhi, a day after his letter to Mr. Bhagwat was released to the media.

Pointing out that Mr. Bhagwat's remarks that there was no need to respond to questions on the legal status of RSS had been made at a convention of the sangh, Mr. Kharge said: "Whatever you say in front of *swayamsevaks* may be acceptable for them, but not for the government."

He further said, "Till now, we had not officially asked the RSS to provide details on their legal status. But now we have done so."

Mr. Kharge said he was ready to even visit Keshava Shilpa (the RSS State headquarters in Karnataka) if they want him to do so.

Mr. Kharge had written to the RSS chief asking him to depute authorised office-bearers to provide details on the legal grounds on which a massive outfits has been functioning.

Taxpayers' money

Stating that Mr. Bhagwat's security expenses were being borne out of taxpayers' money, he wanted to know if the taxpayers do not have a right to ask for legal status of the RSS. Similarly, alleging that the RSS had hired a law firm in the U.S. by paying a huge fee to lobby, he wondered if it was wrong to ask for details related to its donations and tax payment.

Referring to Mr. Bhagwat's comments that even Hindu dharma is not registered, he said, "I am not asking for registration for Hindu dharma. I am asking for registration details of the RSS."

On 'mobilising army'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Taking to X, Home Minister Priyank Kharge said, "RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat claims that, unlike the Army, the @RSSorg can prepare a force and raise an army within three days to fight at the border. If an "NGO" claims it can mobilise an army faster than the armed forces of India, shouldn't a State Government have the right to know ture, training, funding, command chain and accountability?"

He said it raises serious questions of national security, public order and constitutional accountability.

What Home Minister has asked RSS

- Make public legal status and organisational structure
- Give details of office-bearers and authorised representatives
- Disclose sources of donation, contributions and income
- Provide details of expenditure and assets
- Whether applicable taxes are being paid in accordance with law
- Disclose Legal basis on which RSS conducts activities without formal registration
- Disclose Constitutional and statutory framework under which RSS claims right to operate at such scale without public accountability
- Show details of permission, authorisations and compliance mechanisms for public events, route marches, mass gatherings and other organized activities

Kharge's salvo seen as a move to consolidate support base

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

Home Minister Priyank Kharge's sharp ideological attack on the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) appears aimed not only at consolidating the Congress's traditional support base among minorities, Dalits and sections of progressive voters, but also at countering criticism against the State government over governance and development issues.

By bringing the RSS into the political discourse, the Congress appears to be shifting the debate to ideological issues – a terrain on which it is more comfortable confronting the BJP. The strategy is reminiscent of the Congress's efforts under Jawaharlal Nehru in the 1950s to occupy the secular political space and reinforce the party's ideological identity against the Bhartiya Jana Sangh.

The timing is significant as it comes amid discontent within the Congress over portfolio allocation. Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who sang the opening lines of the RSS prayer *Namaste Sada Vatsale* in the Legislative Assembly and subsequently faced criticism from sections of his own party, has often been viewed by critics within the Congress as being overly defensive in responding to Hindutva politics. Mr. Kharge appears keen to counter what some describe as a "soft-Hindutva" approach, with the backing of newly appointed KPCC president B.K. Hariprasad, who has publicly defended the Minister's demand for answers from the RSS.

Social coalition

Mr. Kharge's stance may energise minority and Dalit constituencies and help him emerge as a champion of these groups, much like the AHINDA social coalition cultivated by former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. However, it may not automatically translate into electoral gains, particularly among swing voters who are often more concerned about local issues.

Since assuming charge of the Home portfolio, Mr. Kharge has adopted an aggressive political posture. His remarks on the RSS' registration, funding, compliance with tax laws and accountability appear to have elevated him from a State Minister to a national-level Congress voice on ideological issues.

BJP leaders argue that the campaign is part of a broader political strategy rather than merely a legal or administrative question, aimed at attracting national attention and appealing to the Congress high command.

Political profile

Mr. Kharge's attacks on the RSS could also strengthen his own political profile. As the son of AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge, he is increasingly seen as part of the Congress' next generation of leadership. Taking on the RSS helps him carve out a distinct political identity as a young leader willing to challenge the BJP-RSS ecosystem, much as Rahul Gandhi has sought to do at the national level.

Clear articulation

Several Congress leaders contend that the party lost political ground because it stopped clearly articulating its ideological differences with the RSS and the BJP. Aggressive criticism of the RSS often resonates with Congress workers who seek stronger political messaging against the BJP.

Historically, however, direct attacks on the RSS have sometimes enabled the BJP to portray the Congress as "anti-Hindu". BJP leaders have already accused Mr. Kharge of "insulting a nationalist organisation."

BJP's strategy

Former BJP Ministers and leaders have begun arguing that the Congress government is spending more time on ideological battles than on delivering its guarantee schemes, creating jobs, addressing infrastructure bottlenecks and tackling corruption. On their part, for the BJP, Mr. Kharge's remarks could also provide an opportunity to rally its support base around the RSS and shape the political narrative ahead of the 2028 Assembly elections.

Trial courts must weigh civil disputes before criminal prosecution: High Court

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has said that trial courts cannot ignore the pendency of civil proceedings while assessing whether criminal prosecution is being used as a weapon of harassment, and are duty-bound to scrutinise, even at the stage of framing of charges, whether the evidence genuinely discloses a strong suspicion and a reasonable prospect of conviction.

"The criminal law cannot be permitted to degenerate into a weapon of oppression in aid of a civil contest," the court said while citing the Supreme Court's observations that criminal law cannot be invoked against citizens, in the absence of legally tenable material, merely because a civil dispute subsists between the parties.

Property dispute

Justice M. Nagaprasanna made these observations while quashing criminal cases against several persons and their advocate by the Bengaluru city police in connection with a complaint regarding a dispute over transactions of certain properties, the sale deeds of which were registered two decades ago.

A land dispute between the parties has been artfully clothed in the robes of criminal prosecution in the complete absence of even an iota of criminality, the court said, while pointing out that criminal law cannot be permitted to degenerate into a weapon of oppression in aid of a civil contest.

The criminal justice system must operate through two filters – at the stage of investigation and filing of a chargesheet, and next, at the stage of framing of charge by the trial court.

At both stages, the law vests ample power in trial courts to terminate proceedings that amount to abuse of process, subject always to the peculiar facts of each case. It cannot ignore the pendency of a civil dispute prior to the initiation of criminal proceedings, the court said.

Meanwhile, the court also expressed its deep disquiet over the increasingly disturbing trend of a plethora of cases in which advocates are being dragged into criminal proceedings and arraigned as accused.

"If every advocate, merely by a reason of appearing for a litigant, is exposed to criminal prosecution and trauma of investigative proceedings, the inevitable consequence would be a chilling and paralysing effect upon fearless discharge of professional responsibilities," the court said.

Chalavadi petitions Central govt. on 'diversion of funds'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Accusing the Karnataka government of diverting and misusing funds meant for the welfare of SC/STs under the Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan (SCSP-TSP) to finance guarantee schemes, Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy has petitioned Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Virendra Kumar and the Parliamentary Committee on Welfare of SC/STs in this regard.

Alleging that a total of ₹53,059.45 crore under the SCSP-TSP had been diverted ever since the Congress came to power, he appealed to the Centre to conduct a comprehensive audit of SCSP/TSP allocations and expenditures in Karnataka during the last three years and to examine whether the alleged diversion of these funds for guarantee schemes was allowed under the provisions of the Karnataka SCSP?TSP Act 2013 and the Constitutional framework governing the welfare of SC/STs.

He has also appealed to these authorities to direct the Karnataka government to stop any diversion of SCSP/TSP funds for purposes not directly benefiting SC/ST communities.

He wants the Karnataka government to be told to ensure restoration of all diverted funds to the Social Welfare and Tribal Welfare Departments through Budgetary corrections.

He appealed to the Centre to direct Karnataka to constitute an independent committee to review the implementation of SCSP/TSP in the State.

CM meets delegation of Honorary Consuls

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A delegation of Honorary Consuls, led by Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw called on Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar at the Vidhana Soudha on Tuesday.

"The interaction focused on strengthening Karnataka's engagement with the global community and unlocking new opportunities for investment, innovation, and economic growth," the Chief Minister stated in a post on X (formerly Twitter).

He praised the role played by Honorary Consuls in deepening international partnerships and expressed confidence that their support would further enhance Karnataka's standing as a preferred global destination for enterprise, technology, education, and innovation.

DA cases: Lokayukta raids 35 locations

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Lokayukta police on Tuesday conducted simultaneous searches at over 35 locations across the State in connection with disproportionate assets (DA) cases registered against eight government officers.

The raids were carried out at the residences, offices and properties of relatives of the accused officials in Bengaluru city, and Bengaluru Rural, Davangere, Kalaburagi and Chikkamagaluru districts.

According to the Lokayukta, the searches revealed movable and immovable assets collectively valued at over ₹31.11 crore. The assets include residential houses, sites, agricultural lands, and other valuables.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

M.V.SUBRAMANYAM (66), Retired Senior Assistant Editor, The Hindu, Kurnool passed away on 15-06-2026. Address: H.No. 24/140, Meghana Marella Homes, Flat No.401, Vishnupuri Colony, Anandbagh, Malkajgiri, Secunderabad – 500047. Contact: 9989917477

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
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No. KKRTC/CO/COSP/**03**/2026-27. Dated:16.06.2026

TENDER INVITING NOTICE (THROUGH KPP PORTAL MODE ONLY)

Tenders through KPP portal (pre-qualification & commercial) are invited for supply of following items.

Sl. No.	Tender No.	Tender Nomenclature	Estimate Value(Rs.)	Last date for submission of tender
1.	KKRTC/2024-25/ IND0103/CALL-4	Procurement of Engine Valves and Guides and Inserts	1.70 Crore	29.06.2026 at 15.00 hrs
2.	KKRTC/2025-26/ IND0150/CALL-5	Procurement of Chassis Spares	0.42 Crore	29.06.2026 at 15.00 hrs
3.	KKRTC/2025-26/ IND0159/CALL-4	Procurement of Minor Garage Equipments	0.29 Core	29.06.2026 at 15.00 hrs
4.	KKRTC/2025-26/ IND0166/CALL-3	Procurement of Steering Assembly and Components	1.72 Crore	29.06.2026 at 15.00 hrs
5.	KKRTC/2026-27 IND0214	Procurement of U bolts and Centre Bolts	0.34 Crore	29.06.2026 at 15.00 hrs
6.	KKRTC/2026-27/ IND0215	Procurement of Spring Clamps	0.38 Crore	29.06.2026 at 15.00 hrs
7.	KKRTC/2026-27/ IND0218	Procurement of ERW GI Tubes and CR ERW MS Tubes.	0.69 Crore	29.06.2026 at 15.00 hrs
8.	KKRTC/2024-25/ IND0111/CALL-5	Procurement of NRC Engine Spares	2.82 Crore	16.07.2026 at 15.00 hrs
9.	KKRTC/2026-27/ IND0216	Procurement of Brake & Brake Parts	8..81 Crore	16.07.2026 at 15.00 hrs
10.	KKRTC/2026-27/ IND0217	Procurement of Automotive Glasses.	3.27 Crore	16.07.2026 at 15.00 hrs

All the details of Tender, Registration, Tender form documents etc. are available at https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/.Mail to cospnekrtc@gmail.com or support@eprochelpdesk.com for further information if required. Further, any addendum /corrigendum related to changes in terms and conditions of tender, specification and calendar of events etc. will be uploaded only through KPP portal.

Sd/- Controller of Stores and Purchases
(Tender Inviting Authority)

DIPR/Kalaburagi/219/Deshpande Publicity/2026-27

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
(PROJECT BRANCH)

ADVERTISEMENT

Department of Water Resources, Government of Punjab, Chandigarh invites applications from Indian Nationals for One post of Secretary of the Punjab Water Regulation and Development Authority (PWRDA) under Section 8 of the Punjab Water Resources (Management and Regulation) Act, 2020. The last date for submission of application will be **24.06.2026**.
For detailed advertisement and information regarding qualification, experience and other details visit **https//wrd.punjab.gov.in/en/cat/recruitment**.

Chandigarh
Dated 16.06.2026
Principal Secretary to Govt. of Punjab
Department of Water Resources
3621/12/2026-27/12431

Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Limited
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
6/13/1, 10th Block, 2nd Stage, Nagarabhavi,
Bengaluru-560072, Ph:080-22282220,
email: kredlmd@gmail.com, www.kredl.karnataka.gov.in
No. KREDL/07/SG/F-2052/2025-26 Date: 16.06.2026

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through ISN-ETS Portal (https://www.bharat-electronictender.com) only)

Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Limited (KREDL), a Government of Karnataka Undertaking, hereby invites short-term tender for **Selection of Developer(s) for Setting up of 250 MW/500 MWh BESS at Kushtagi Taluk, Koppal District and 200 MW/400MWh BESS at Huliyurdurga, Kunigal Taluk, Tumakuru District to be interconnected to respective KPTCL Substations, in Karnataka under Tariff-based competitive bidding with bidding parameter as Availability Based Fixed Charge in INR per MW per Month (exclusive of GST).**
Tender documents will be available in the ISN-ETS Portal **(https://www.bharatelectronictender.com) on or after 17.06.2026.** The last date for submission of bids is **29.06.2026.** Any further amendments, if any, shall be notified only through the ISN-ETS Portal **(https://www.bharat-electronictender.com)**
Note: KREDL reserves the right to cancel the bidding process and invite fresh bids without assigning any reason and without any liability or obligation. Any further modifications will only be notified on ISN-ETS Portal **(https://www.bharatelectronictender.com)** website.

Sd/- Assistant General Manager-SG, KREDL

INBRIEF

Central agencies join drive against narcotics in Kerala

In a major boost to Kerala's intensified anti-drug campaign, Central enforcement and intelligence agencies have joined forces with the State government to strengthen Operation Toofan, the flagship narcotics crackdown launched by Kerala Police. Home Minister Ramesh Chennithala convened a high-level coordination meeting in Thiruvananthapuram on Tuesday involving representatives from various central agencies to enhance intelligence sharing.

Kerala 'Kafir screenshot' row: SIT arrests DYFI local leader

The special investigation team (SIT) probing the 'kafir screenshot' case has arrested a local leader of the Democratic Youth Federation of India (DYFI), the youth organisation of the Communist Party of India (Marxist). Jithin Bhaskaran, the arrested activist, is a member of the DYFI's Vadakara block committee. The case is related to a screenshot with communal content that had surfaced on the eve of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections in Vadakara, Kerala.

Parents assault teacher accused of sexual harassment

Some parents are said to have assaulted a teacher who is accused of sexually harassing his students in the government Urdu high school at Chikkodi in Belagavi district. The Kannada teacher is facing allegations of threatening and demanding sexual favours from class 10 students to pass them in the subject. At least five girls are said to have complained to their parents. Tension prevailed for some time in the school until police arrived and took the teacher into custody.

Ahead of Legislative Council polls, Cong. plans mock vote

Of the seven, Congress and the BJP are poised to win four seats and two seats respectively

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Ahead of the elections to seven seats in the Legislative Council, the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) meeting at a resort near the city on Tuesday evening discussed strategies for elections and the legislators have been asked to be present at the resort on Wednesday again for a mock voting process. Of the seven, Congress and the BJP are poised to win comfortably four seats and two seats respectively, one seat is witnessing a fight between the Congress and JD (S), raising fears of cross voting.

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar greeting former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, during the CLP meeting at private resort in Bidadi, on the outskirts of Bengaluru, on Tuesday.

Secret ballot

The Members of the Legislative Assembly are the electors in the election, which is held through a secret ballot. The election is scheduled for Thursday. Among those present at the CLP, included Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, KPCC president B.K. Hariprasad, former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Congress general secretary in charge Randeep Singh Surjewala.

Party sources said that though there were plans to brief the legislators on the election process using model ballot papers, allocation of preferential votes and mock voting since more than 30 legislators have been elected for the first time, the party deferred it for Wednesday. "The number of votes to be apportioned between its five candidates and other strategies will be decided on Wednesday," sources said. While Ramanagara legislator Iqbal Hussain has taken ill and is admitted to hospital, party sources said that he is expected to come to cast his vote.

Though the Congress was expected to keep its flock together by booking rooms in the resort and bring legislators directly to Vidhana Soudha for voting on Thursday, it is believed that the legislators have been allowed to choose to stay at the resort or return home. "Those who have Bengaluru residences are likely to go home and those from far away districts are expected to stay. About 120 legislators took part in the CLP meeting," said a source.

Congress has 135 members and is supported by one Sarvodaya Karnataka Paksha legislator, two independents and two members who have been expelled from the BJP. With the disqualification of Vinay Kulkarni and death of former Minister D. Sudhakar, the total strength of Assembly is 222.

Candidates have to secure at least 28 votes, as per a calculation. Congress's candidates, KPCC president B.K. Hariprasad, Tippanna Kamakanoor, P.V. Mohan and B.S. Shivanna, and the BJP's candidates Lingaraj Patil and Raghu Kautilya are expected to sail through comfortably. All eyes are on Congress's Vinay Karthik and JD(S) candidate Govindaraju. If the Congress decides to apportion 29 votes to first four candidates to ensure safety of its candidates, Mr. Karthik will be left with 24 votes and if 28 votes are provided for first four candidates, he will be left with just about the required number, and is also expected to be backed by second preferential votes..

The JD(S) is expecting to get seven votes from its alliance partner BJP, along with one vote of BJP expelled member Basannagouda Patil Yatnal and 18 of its own, taking its tally to 26, still short of two votes. Party sources said that Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy will meeting the party legislators on Wednesday to strategise ahead of the election.

Preparing for city civic polls

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

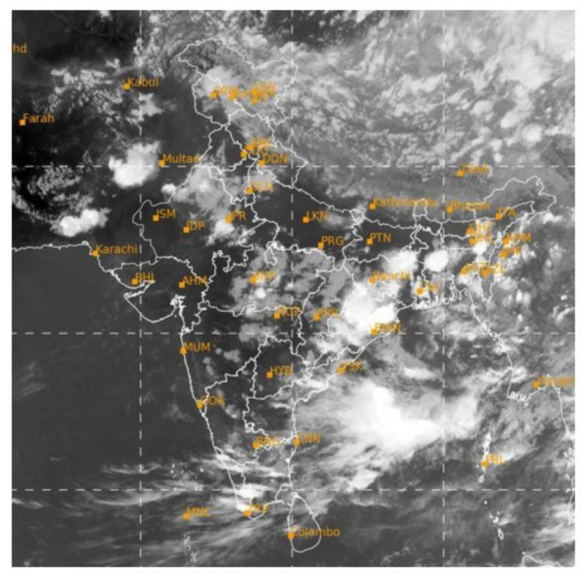
Congress legislators have been asked to prepare ground in their respective constituencies for the five corporations in Greater Bengaluru Authority region, and zilla panchayat and taluk panchayat elections.

Sources said during the Congress Legislature Party meeting, the legislators were asked to be prepared for the elections since the government has decided to hold the GBA, ZP and TP elections shortly.

The ongoing Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls by the Election Commission of India was also discussed.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.45 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala and Mahe. Hot and humid weather likely at isolated places over Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Konkan & Goa. Heat wave conditions likely at isolated places over Chhattisgarh and Telangana

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	0.4	33.2	25.4	Kurnool	—	37.9	27.3
Ahmedabad	—	40.6	29.0	Lucknow	—	40.1	27.1
Aizawl	1	30.4	21.6	Madurai	—	40.8	28.1
Bengaluru	—	31.8	22.1	Mangaluru	—	31.7	26.1
Bhopal	15	37.0	21.6	Mumbai	—	35.1	29.3
Bhubaneswar	—	39.2	27.8	Mysuru	—	34.0	20.2
Chandigarh	—	36.2	25.0	New Delhi	0.2	33.3	25.7
Chennai	—	40.5	29.3	Patna	—	40.0	30.2
Coimbatore	4	34.0	24.0	Port Blair	2	31.3	26.6
Dehradun	0.8	34.2	20.6	Prayagraj	—	42.6	29.0
Gangtok	10	23.7	17.4	Puducherry	—	39.3	28.3
Goa	2	33.8	27.8	Pune	—	36.5	24.2
Guwahati	—	34.3	26.6	Raipur	—	40.5	28.4
Hubballi	—	33.0	22.0	Ranchi	—	35.4	24.0
Hyderabad	1	37.6	25.3	Shillong	—	25.0	19.0
Imphal	—	31.2	24.5	Shimla	12	25.5	15.0
Jaipur	—	37.0	28.3	Srinagar	—	29.4	16.0
Kochi	9	31.2	24.2	Thiruvananthapuram	0.2	33.4	26.5
Kohima	—	26.0	19.0	Tiruchirappalli	2	39.5	24.4
Kolkata	—	37.0	28.9	Vijayawada	0.4	39.0	28.6
Kozhikode	—	34.9	27.0	Visakhapatnam	—	35.6	28.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.61	..20	46	 78	...101	.....
Bengaluru	...7	..—	58	 74	...168	.....
Chennai	...6	..12	.—	 45	...110	.....
Delhi	.22	..76	58	 95	...148	.....
Hyderabad	.16	..18	42	 53	...105	.....
Kolkata	.15	..23	24	 70	96	.....
Lucknow	.12	..11	45	... 155	97	.....
Mumbai	..—	..49	14	 56	67	.....
Pune	..—	..36	93	 49	59	.....
Visakhapatnam	.13	..41	14	 60	...100	.....

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Bikaner, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 282 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Gadag, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 28

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

MSC Elsa 3 sinking: HC concerned over impact

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

Expressing serious concern over the absence of an environmental impact assessment (EIA) on the sinking of the ship *MSC Elsa 3* off the Alappuzha coast in May 2025, the Kerala High Court on Tuesday sought the response of the Centre and other agencies.

The court sought the response of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change and the Director-General of Shipping on the marine and coastal ecological impacts caused by the wreckage.

They have been asked to detail the manner in which the EIA would be carried out, the institutions or agencies considered competent to undertake the exercise, and the scope of the study. In addition, the court must be informed whether any interim measures have been contemplated to address the environmental and navigational concerns due to the sinking of the vessel along with the containers aboard, said a Division Bench of Justice Raja Vijayaraghavan V. and Justice K.V. Jayakumar, while considering public interest litigation petitions filed by T.N. Pratapan and others.

Many of the containers were carrying hazardous cargo, including 339.20 tonnes of calcium carbide. An estimated 475 containers remain sunk with the ship. The court sought details of whether steps had been taken to engage an independent expert agency, scientific institution, or technical consultant to verify the findings contained in the reports relied upon by the ship's owners.

Nourishing futures

Students eating mid-day meal provided at a school in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh on Tuesday. K.V.S. GIRI

In Singapore, Naidu pitches Amaravati as a future-ready, global city

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday pitched Amaravati as a future-ready global city and invited international investors, technology leaders and semiconductor manufacturers in Singapore to partner with the State government in its ambitious development plans.

N. Chandrababu Naidu at a summit in Singapore on Tuesday.

Addressing the Leadership Plenary Session-II of the World Cities Summit on the theme, 'Can Smart Cities Love Humans?', Mr. Naidu outlined his vision for Amaravati as a people-centric, technology-driven and environmentally sustainable capital city. It will be knowledge-based city with world-class universities, a quantum computing hub, advanced digital infrastructure and green energy initiatives and sustainability, he said.

Highlighting the uniqueness of the project, Mr. Naidu said farmers had voluntarily parted with nearly 35,000 acres of land, making it one of the world's largest participatory urban development initiatives. The State had developed the land and returned a part of it to the farmers, ensuring inclusive growth.

Tamil Nadu's own-tax effort has 'collapsed', says White Paper

T. Ramakrishnan
CHENNAI

The White Paper presented by Finance Minister N. Marie Wilson on Tuesday said "the State's own-tax effort has collapsed".

Giving an account of how the State's Own Tax Revenue (SOTR) fared in the last five years vis-à-vis three "peer States" (Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Karnataka), the White Paper stated that the SOTR marked "the biggest component which is most directly within the State's control and the most reliable indicator of fiscal effort". The State's "own-tax revenue is drawn from five principal sources", which pertained to commercial taxes (Goods and Services Tax), Value Added Tax (VAT) on petroleum, State Excise and VAT on liquor, Stamps & Registration, Motor Vehicle Tax, and other taxes.

Within the broader commercial taxes, GST accounted for around 53%; VAT on liquor, 28%; and VAT on petroleum products, 19%. "[Revenue from] Commercial taxes, as a proportion of GSDP (Gross State Domestic Product), have declined from approximately 4.53% in 2021-22 to approximately 3.89% in 2025-26 – a decline that was not seen in the case of peer States," the document said.

Pointing out that the Total Revenue Receipts (TRR) fell from about 10% of GSDP in 2021-22, the start of the post-COVID window, to 8.32% during 2025-26, the official document stated that the SOTR-to-GSDP ratio declined from 5.93% to 5.45%, the "lowest in the State's history and the steepest decline" among the benchmarked States. But in 2006-07, SOTR, as a percentage of GSDP, had a peak of 8.94%. The cumulative decline from the historical peak meant approximately ₹1.23 lakh crore in annual revenue had been foregone.

As war clouds recede, Kerala expecting influx of Arab tourists in monsoon season

Dhinesh Kallungal
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

With the signing of a new agreement between Iran and the U.S. aimed at ending hostilities between the two countries, Kerala, a favoured destination among Arab travellers, is gearing up for an influx of visitors as the summer vacation season begins across West Asia and the monsoon sets in over the State.

Arab tourists comprise a significant proportion of international visitors to Kerala's tourism sector, particularly in the wellness and leisure segments in the months of June, July, and August. However, the West Asian conflict, subsequent airspace restrictions, and soaring airfares had affected tourist movement for several months.

The sector is now buoyed by the end of the conflict and the onset of the monsoon season, widely regarded as the best time to experience the State's enchanting landscapes and rejuvenating wellness therapies, including Ayurveda. Tourism stakeholders expect the ongoing season to attract large numbers of visitors seeking holistic healing and relaxation.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Rasheed Kakkad, president of the Association of Arab Tour Operators, said there has been an uptick in enquiries from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries over the past couple of weeks.

"Unlike tourists from Europe or the Far East, Arab tourists arrive in large numbers and spend nearly four times more than an average European visitor, significantly benefiting the local economy," he said.

Summer in GCC nations

This is also the period when temperatures in GCC countries often exceed 50 degrees Celsius, making Kerala's cool climate and monsoon charm particularly attractive to travellers. According to Sajeev Kurup, general secretary and president of the Ayurveda Promotion Society, Arab travellers fall into different categories, including leisure, wellness and medical tourists.

However, Kerala benefits most from visitors in the leisure and wellness segments.

"Wellness tourists are drawn to the traditional holistic Ayurveda treatments offered across Malabar and Central Kerala apart from medical tourists to big hospital chains, while leisure travellers prefer destinations such as Munnar and the backwaters of Alappuzha," he said.

Limits of America

Iran won the war by merely denying the United States a victory

Israel and the U.S. launched their war on Iran on February 28 to bring about regime change in Tehran, destroy its nuclear and missile capabilities and end its support for non-state actors such as Hamas, Hezbollah and Houthis. More than 100 days later, on June 15, the U.S. reached a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Iran to end fighting, lift the blockades in the Strait of Hormuz and the Gulf of Oman – disruptions that did not exist before the war – and pave the way for more substantive talks on the nuclear question, while Israel, frustrated and isolated, is watching from the sidelines. That U.S. President Donald Trump pushed ahead despite Israeli objection underscores how dramatically the region's strategic landscape has shifted. Left with few viable military options to make Iran submit to America's maximalist demands, or to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, Mr. Trump ultimately turned to a phased diplomatic approach: a preliminary agreement now, followed by negotiations on a final deal. Iranian officials say the arrangement would include the release of some frozen assets and reparations for Tehran as part of a broader regional ceasefire agreement. Core issues such as Iran's nuclear programme and western sanctions would be discussed next.

The MoU is only the first step on a long and difficult road to peace and stability. Mr. Trump's immediate challenge is to prevent a fresh outbreak of hostilities between the U.S. and Iran, or Israel and Iran, while nuclear negotiations remain under way. His biggest strategic mistake was his belief, shared by Israel, that there was a military solution to the Iranian nuclear issue. Washington underestimated Iran's resolve, strategic depth and geographical advantages. As Henry Kissinger put it, "the guerrilla wins if he does not lose". Iran won this war by not losing while the U.S., the most powerful country, lost it by failing to achieve its goals. With the nuclear talks set to resume, Mr. Trump finds himself in a weaker position today than the one Barack Obama occupied when he held talks with Iran in 2013-15. Nevertheless, the prospects for a negotiated outcome are still real as Iran urgently needs long-term economic relief. One potential disruptor, however, could be Israel, which has said it would not withdraw from occupied Southern Lebanon. Iran and the U.S. should rein in their respective allies, Hezbollah and Israel; Tehran should also take measures to instil confidence in the process. It has already demonstrated its deterrence by taking control of the Strait of Hormuz. It must now reopen the waterway in exchange for the U.S. removing its blockade. Iran and the U.S. should remain focused on diplomacy, resist potential Israeli efforts to sabotage the process, and work towards restoring stability in West Asia.

Primed to treat

The Kerala story in containing Nipah has lessons for pandemic preparedness

The emergence of a case of the Nipah virus in Kerala and the subsequent control in the State is indicative of two things: first, Kerala's own mix of ecological factors and anthropogenic activity that makes it vulnerable every monsoon season to the possibility of Nipah spreading, the hosts being fruit bats. Second, the fact that there has been just a single case so far is testament to the robustness of the health systems in place in Kerala. The World Health Organization (WHO) has classified Nipah a priority pathogen, accounting for its lethality, potential to cause outbreaks, even a pandemic. It is just one of several pathogens that WHO has flagged for Kerala – including avian influenza and Kyasanur Forest Disease. Kerala has, at the moment, one active case of 43-year-old man from Ramanattukara in Kozhikode. He remains on ventilator support at the Kozhikode Government Hospital. No fresh cases have come up since then, after intensive contact tracing and screening. The 2018 Nipah outbreak, immortalised in film and art, which caused 17 deaths, and affected 23 people (18 lab confirmed), spread primarily on person-to-person contact, with the index patient reportedly transmitting the virus to 15 others, including health-care workers. Since then it has had cases/outbreaks in 2019, 2021, 2023, 2024, and 2025. Historically in India, a devastating outbreak was noted in 2001 in West Bengal, and later, a few cases were detected again, in 2007. Earlier this year, on January 26, 2026, two laboratory-confirmed cases of Nipah virus infection were reported from West Bengal, both health-care workers. This was also contained and no further cases were reported.

It is clear that human activity on the fringes of forest zones, encroaching into traditional habitats of the fruit bats, has a central role to play in the transmission of the virus; in time, this originally zoonotic infection jumped to humans. Repeatedly, the source of infection has been traced to consuming contaminated fruits, or contact with water sources contaminated by bats. This also indicates that the overall approach should be from a One Health perspective, considering environmental and animal interplays with humans, and not a mere health-care angle. The State's history of Nipah outbreaks and its learnings have enabled it to prime its health system to meet such health emergencies, at the primary and secondary hospitals itself. This is the other lesson from Kerala for pandemic preparedness. Its system has become adept at maintaining a high index of suspicion for cases of acute encephalitis; watching out for clusters, and with clinical efficiency, deploying protocols to control further spread and reach all those who need medical assistance.

Perspectives, on the Editorial and Opinion pages, on the U.S.–Iran conflict, its regional implications and prospects for diplomacy

Moving from war to deal in a deeply divided region

T.S. Tirumurti

Former Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, New York, and currently Head, Steering Committee of the Deccan Centre for International Relations, Chennai

Even as the ceasefire between the United States and Iran was being repeatedly breached, the Iran war showed something that the world appears to have forgotten: military force, by itself, cannot be a solution unless it is followed by a political settlement – whether in Ukraine, Gaza, Lebanon, Sudan or Iran. The last four years of relentless bombardment, bloodshed, and the killing of innocent civilians and children with impunity have exposed the reality that none of the major powers seriously pursued the option of negotiations. In fact, many have been either directly involved in acts of aggression or have actively supported them through the supply of arms and financial assistance. However, the growing stalemate in almost all major conflicts underscores a fundamental truth: a political resolution is the only way forward if the major powers are to preserve what remains of their dignity.

An uneasy path to fragile peace

Restarting a full-scale war with Iran had become untenable for the U.S. after setbacks on both the strategic and political fronts, and equally untenable for Iran after reverses on the military, economic and leadership fronts. Both sides were ultimately compelled to negotiate. However, for Israel, which had initially encouraged the U.S. to start this war, any deal with Iran that fell short of regime change was unacceptable – and remains so – because of Iran's continued support for a much-weakened Hezbollah in Lebanon, which Israel still regards as a direct threat. With Israeli elections due in October 2026, a ceasefire on the Lebanon front is politically unpalatable for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his coalition. Iran, meanwhile, has become more assertive, by directly targeting Israeli interests and U.S. assets in the Gulf even when Hezbollah was attacked. Until recently, the pattern had been the reverse, with Iran's proxies retaliating whenever Iran was targeted.

The much-awaited digitally signed U.S.-Iran deal reflects the reality that Iran has had a strategic win. Reports indicate that it opens up Hormuz Strait unconditionally, halts the war on all fronts including Lebanon, lifts Iranian oil sanctions, unfreezes Iranian assets and commits Iran not to produce nuclear weapons.

Negotiations to commit Iran to suspend nuclear enrichment and give up enriched nuclear material without being dubbed a repackaged Obama-era 2016 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), will take place over 60 days. In some ways the deal is not yet a political settlement, but the beginning of one.

Lest anyone romanticise Iran's strategic gains, they do not alter the fundamental reality that Iran will continue to be viewed as a major disruptor in West Asia. There is little indication that its reliance on non-state actors such as Hezbollah, the Houthis and Iraqi militias will diminish. The Iranian government is now more hardline, its missile arsenal will be replenished, and it retains the capability to threaten the Strait of Hormuz and strike Gulf countries at will. The region is unlikely to be any safer after a deal than it was before.

A fragile Iran deal masks deeper regional rivalries and uncertainties

This is precisely why U.S. President Donald Trump's 'Make America Great Again' (MAGA) base was pushing him to get a better deal. Mr. Trump's push to get the Saudis, Qataris and others to join the Abraham Accords to normalise relations with Israel made no headway since Israeli attacks were unrelenting in Gaza, the West Bank and Lebanon.

Even now, after the deal, Israel has sworn to keep the territories it has captured in Lebanon and expand Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank. Iran is apprehensive, for good reason, that the U.S. or Israel will derail the deal at the first sign of stalled negotiations or a Hezbollah attack. Israel, meanwhile, has accused the U.S. of selling it out because none of its key objectives have been achieved, conveniently overlooking its own role in urging the U.S. into the conflict.

Gulf fault lines exposed

The Gulf countries have also come out the worse off. They bet on a U.S. security umbrella, signed bilateral Abraham Accords with Israel sidelining historical regional conflicts, shed the conservative tag (like Saudi Arabia), invested in a hi-tech future and joined important global groupings such as BRICS, signalling their increasing ambitions as middle powers. Those ambitions have been rudely shaken and their fragilities exposed.

The Gulf states need to return to the drawing board. They overestimated their collective economic and security strength while underestimating their internal divisions and long-standing rivalries.

The post-war landscape has exposed these fault lines: Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have worked at cross-purposes in Yemen, Sudan and Somalia, the Emiratis have left the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries – a clear signal that Saudi writ on energy policy is over. Their supply chains have to be reworked to overcome a future Hormuz blockade. They will face a growth slowdown after the war impacting their ambitions. While the UAE has moved closer to Israel and the U.S., others have adopted a more cautious approach. Ironically, the Iran war has divided the Gulf rather than united it against a common adversary, making a recalibration of relations with Washington inevitable. After the collapse of deterrence against Iran, no Gulf country is secure unless it forges a regional security architecture bringing Iran into the fold. The lessons of the Ukraine war should not be forgotten. Europe expanded the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's boundaries towards Russia without bringing Moscow into a broader regional security architecture, and is now paying the price. Yet, neither Europe nor West Asia appears to have learned that lesson.

The other power shifts

Russia and China are happy to watch the U.S. get bogged down. For China, a weakened Trump is easier to manage, while the Iran war has given China a preview of what to expect if it closes the Taiwan Strait or if a well-armed smaller power is attacked by a bigger one. Although China seeks a larger role in West Asia, the Gulf remains too deeply tied to the U.S. economically and strategically for any dramatic shift. China is therefore likely to work through its "iron brother" Pakistan, which found itself in a geographical sweet spot. For Russia, meanwhile, the war only reinforces the strategic logic it has long applied to Ukraine.

India initially appeared to align with Israel and the U.S., and ignored the assassination of the Iranian Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, but quickly realised the need for a more balanced approach when Iran closed the Strait of Hormuz and threatened critical interests such as energy security and maritime trade. Close ties with Israel or the UAE are important, but taking sides in regional conflicts is not.

With growing divergences among regional powers, Pakistan's rising role, and the possibility of greater Chinese influence in West Asia, bilateral relationships alone are insufficient. India needs a balanced regional strategy rooted in strategic autonomy and multi-alignment. Any slowdown in the Gulf will affect trade, investments, employment opportunities for Indian workers and diaspora remittances. The Chinese getting a permanent maritime foothold in that region will make it worse. More broadly, the inability of the U.S. to accommodate India within its larger strategic vision in West Asia, East Asia and the wider neighbourhood is hurting India.

The question now is whether Israel will seek to undermine the Iran deal. Will the protagonists draw lessons from this conflict, or will they embark on yet another cycle of wars in Lebanon, Cuba, Gaza and the West Bank? And, on a related note, will Pakistan's growing proximity to the U.S. increase pressure on India to resume unconditional talks with Islamabad?

The U.S.-Iran 'peace deal' confronts spoiler Israel

Mohammed Ayoob

University Distinguished Professor Emeritus of International Relations, Michigan State University, and the author most recently of 'From Regional Security to Global IR' (2024)

The signing of a United States-Iran peace memorandum offers a rare opportunity to reduce tensions in one of the world's most volatile regions. After decades marked by sanctions, proxy wars, covert operations, and periodic military confrontations, even a tentative framework for reconciliation between Washington and Tehran represents a significant diplomatic achievement. Yet, the prospects for transforming this memorandum into a permanent agreement depend not only on the willingness of the U.S. and Iran to compromise. They depend equally on whether Israel is prepared to accept a regional order in which Iran is no longer treated as a permanent enemy.

Israel's long opposition

No country has done more over the past three decades to oppose U.S.-Iran rapprochement than Israel. Successive Israeli governments have portrayed Iran as an existential threat and have consistently sought to prevent any normalisation of relations between Tehran and Washington. While Israeli leaders justify this position in terms of national security, the persistence of their opposition suggests broader political and strategic motivations.

The historical record is revealing. The 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) placed stringent restrictions on Iran's nuclear programme and subjected it to one of the most intrusive inspection regimes ever implemented. International nuclear experts broadly agreed that the agreement significantly reduced the risk of Iran acquiring a nuclear weapon. Yet, Israel remained vehemently opposed to it.

What made Israel's position particularly striking was that it opposed an agreement designed precisely to address the threat it claimed to fear most. The episode demonstrated that Israeli objections extended beyond the nuclear issue itself. What Israel appeared unwilling to accept was the broader implication of the agreement: the gradual reintegration of Iran into a regional order that Israel sought to dominate but would find it impossible to do if Iran was a part of it.

Lasting U.S.-Iran peace may depend on Tel Aviv's willingness to adapt

For decades, Israel has benefited strategically from the perception of Iran as the principal source of instability in West Asia. The Iranian threat has long served as a justification for deeper military cooperation with the U.S., expanding security ties with Arab states, and the diversion of international attention from the Palestinian issue. As long as Iran remained centre stage, scrutiny of Israeli policies in the occupied Palestinian territories remained secondary.

From Iran to Palestine

A successful U.S.-Iran rapprochement would fundamentally alter this equation. If Iran ceased to be seen as the region's primary threat, international attention would inevitably shift back to the Palestinian issue – including the occupation, settlement expansion in the West Bank and the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. This concern has become more acute since the Gaza war, which has severely damaged Israel's international standing and intensified global scrutiny of its policies towards Palestinians.

At the same time, the regional mood has shifted. Arab governments that once viewed confrontation with Iran as a strategic necessity have increasingly embraced de-escalation. Saudi Arabia's restoration of diplomatic relations with Iran in 2023 signalled a growing recognition that endless rivalry has imposed enormous political and economic costs on the region. Many Arab states, especially in the Gulf, now see stability and economic development as more urgent priorities than perpetual confrontation with Tehran – a point driven home strongly by the recent conflict.

Israel finds itself increasingly at odds with this emerging regional consensus. While it continues to advocate a strategy centred on containing and isolating Iran, much of West Asia appears to be moving toward cautious engagement. A permanent U.S.-Iran agreement would reinforce this trend and further weaken the logic of confrontation.

Israel's choice ahead

Nevertheless, Israel retains significant influence over U.S. policy through the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) and other channels, strong congressional support and deeply institutionalised security ties. This influence has often shaped American approaches towards Iran. The danger is that Israeli leaders may again seek to derail diplomacy through political pressure, demands for unattainable concessions or military actions that raise regional tensions and undermine negotiations. Israel's continued strikes in Lebanon despite repeated rebukes from U.S. President Donald Trump are a clear indication of the preferences of Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government.

The fundamental issue, therefore, is whether Israel can adapt to a West Asia in which its security is no longer based on the isolation of Iran but on a broader framework of regional coexistence. The Netanyahu government's record offers little reason for optimism, having consistently favoured military action over diplomatic compromise.

The future of the U.S.-Iran peace memorandum may therefore depend a great deal on Israel's willingness to accept a changing regional landscape. If Israeli leaders continue to view any U.S.-Iran understanding as inherently unacceptable, they may succeed in obstructing a permanent agreement. But in doing so, they would be confronting a broader regional movement towards de-escalation at a moment when West Asia desperately needs it, potentially leading to Israel's further isolation both regionally and internationally.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Cautious hope

The agreement between the United States and Iran merits a cautious welcome, given the fragility and complexity of the U.S.–Iran relationship, which has often been disrupted by Israel's actions. It is time for the U.S. to signal clearly that further crossings of red lines by Tel Aviv, particularly in relation to Beirut and Lebanon, will not automatically be met with American intervention on Israel's behalf.

Angara Venkata Girija Kumar,
Chennai

News of the agreement offers a ray of hope to those who long for peace. Nations and their citizens must work to strengthen and sustain democracy, the most effective system of governance devised so far. Only then can international institutions such as the United Nations be reinforced, creating the conditions for a more peaceful world. Peace may seem distant today, but it remains an aspiration worth pursuing for all humanity.

Unnikrishnan Mangalasseri,
Manjeri, Malappuram, Kerala

The prolonged conflict had raised concerns about global energy security, maritime trade, and regional stability. The reported commitment of both countries to pursue dialogue and reduce tensions demonstrates the importance of diplomacy in resolving international disputes. However, the success of the agreement will depend on sincere implementation and continued engagement between the parties. The international community must support efforts aimed at long-term stability in West Asia.

Shivansh Pratap Yadav,
Ambedkar Nagar, Uttar Pradesh

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

A nation determined to endure and overcome

Hamid Ansari

Former Vice-President of India

The history of Iran is replete with paradoxes and exceptions. It is a land of great contrasts both in climate and geography and is inhabited by, in the words of an ancient historian, "a poor people with a proud spirit." Given its location, the Iranian people and its rulers have interacted with its neighbouring states throughout history both as their oppressors and as victims.

Over the past two centuries, Iran has oscillated between extremes as the country searched for a viable response to the multiple challenges of Western style modernity. Under the Qajar and Pahlavi dynasties, it sought for an emulation of all things Western until the Islamic Revolution of 1979 reversed the trend and brought forth a new prototype.

The decline of the Shah

The discovery of oil in the country in 1901 had led to the formation of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company (AIOC) with the British government holding almost half its shares. However, post World War II, its nationalisation in 1953 resulted in tensions with Western powers, which led to the active involvement of the CIA (Central Intelligence Agency) in overthrowing the then Mosaddeq government. The U.S. then became the deciding factor in resolving the Anglo-Iranian nationalisation dispute.

Developments in the global oil market saw Iranian oil revenues increase from $2 billion to $20 billion in 1974. This resulted in poorly conceived and badly implemented programmes of socio-economic and military modernisation by the Shah; his so-called White Revolution (a series of reforms to modernise Iran) and 'Great Civilisation' projects (highlighted by the 2,500th anniversary of the Iranian monarchy) were not successful and were widely resented within Iran. The major sources of opposition were political organisations from both the left and the right; pro-democracy reformists; merchants and bazaaris; and the *ulema* (recognised scholars of Islam).

In addition, and despite "parallelism of interests" between the two countries, the presence of Americans everywhere was resented by the Iranian public. As James Bill put it in his book *The Eagle and the Lion,* "the very best and very worst of America were on display in the cities of Iran." In the 1970s, according to a contemporary observer, "the political culture of the Shah's regime both became more repressive and hardened on the one hand, and more remote and attenuated on the other." The subsequent 'progress' in U.S.-Iran relations emanated from wrong policies, misunderstandings and cultural misperceptions. These together contributed to the U.S. becoming in the eyes of Iran, the 'Great Satan'.

Also in the 1970s, the U.S. encouraged Iran to develop nuclear power arguing that the country would eventually run out of oil. The Shah also periodically hinted that he wanted Iran to build nuclear weapons and, in response to official denials, said Iran "has no intention of acquiring [them] but if small states began building them, then Iran might to reconsider its policy." U.S. documents of that period suggest that it was in the U.S.'s national interest, both with respect to the economy and security, to have Iran acquire nuclear power.

However, by the end of 1977, the Shah had alienated the *ulema*, estranged the merchants, and created a poor and deracinated working class in Tehran. He had also alienated many of the educated middle-class through his oppressive policies and human rights abuses. As alternatives, radical intellectuals such as Ali Shariati propagated the ideology of 'Red Shiism' (a reinterpretation of Shi'a Islam as an active, classless movement for social justice). The Marxists were also active as the Tudeh party before being suppressed. But separately, and with greater impact and influence, Ayatollah Khomeini was advocating for the *Vilayat-e-Faqih* (Regency of the Islamic Jurist).

The revolution of 1979 was not primarily a religious event though it drew strength from its Shia form. It was sustained by middle-class disillusionment with corruption and economic stagnation. The process of Islamisation of the state and society commenced with a national referendum in March 1979 and gradually enveloped the institutions and practices of the state.

Post the revolution

In November 1979, prompted by news that the former Shah was being given asylum in the U.S., students broke into the U.S. embassy in Tehran and took the diplomats hostage. A laudatory account of that episode, which had far-reaching consequences, was written by one of its women student leaders Massoumeh Ebtekar. In an interview to a U.S. scholar about the hostages, Ms. Ebtekar said "it is very difficult to compare the suffering that the Iranian nation felt during fifty years of foreign domination and comparing that to the suffering or pain that may have faced during these 444 days."

This sudden and sharp decline in U.S.-Iran relations changed the global picture as seen from Washington. Regional tranquillity was further shattered when Iraq disowned the 1975 Algiers Treaty and invaded Iran in 1980 at different points of their common border. The seven-year war, from 1980 to 1987, unleashed by Iraq became for Iran a defence of its national territory. It transformed from a border war on Iran's western borders in the first two years to becoming a full-fledged war extending into the interior cities. It became an inescapable fact of life in Iran and merged into the consciousness of the public.

Iraq was assisted in the war by most Arab countries as well as by the U.S. Each had its own reasons to be apprehensive of Iran's revolutionary agenda emphasised in Khomeini's pronouncement that "there is only one way to save this revolution and that is to rapidly export the revolution, mobilise the world's Muslims and, later on all oppressed masses against the oppressors and governments related to them".

The role of Israel

Israel covertly assisted Iran, viewing Iraqi President Saddam Hussein as the more severe, existential threat. This pragmatism overrode the ideological hostility against the newly established Islamic Republic and resulted in a crucial, multi-faceted role for Israel. The country became one of Iran's primary sources of military equipment, covertly providing desperately needed spare parts, ammunition, and heavy weapons. In 1980, it secretly supplied Iran with hundreds of spare tires to keep its grounded American-made F-4 Phantom fighter jets operational. In exchange for covert arms sales, Israel received Iranian crude oil. This helped Israel bypass the severe energy shortages caused by the 1979 oil crisis, while allowing Iran to sustain its war effort. It also provided Israel's domestic defence industry with valuable combat-testing data for its weapons.

Israeli policymakers believed that a strong and well-supplied Iran would successfully bog down Saddam Hussein's military, preventing Iraq from posing a threat to its neighbours or Israel itself. By ensuring that the two most hostile regional powers spent eight years depleting each other's military, economic, and human resources, the conflict provided Israel with a highly valuable "strategic breather". It also, at times, helped facilitate the safe and unhindered emigration of the Persian Jewish community out of Iran.

The war gave the revolutionary authorities of Iran an opportunity to weaken the Iranian national army of the Shah's period and to create instead the 'Sepahe-e-Pasdaran' or the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. It went from strength to strength during the war, numbering around 1 million while the regular armed forces numbered around 3,55,000.

Iran's determination

Iran showed considerable ingenuity in meeting the challenge of Iraq-Iran war. It reduced the import of non-essentials and managed to keep its oil flowing despite periodic air attacks. It diversified sources of arms supply and capitalised on the support of the masses for the war while squeezing the well to do and the bazaaris. The war to all intents and purposes became the sole criterion for judging the Islamic Republic.

There was some public opposition to the conduct of the war such as from the Islamic Liberation Movement, co-founded by former Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan, which labelled the continuation of the war as 'un-Islamic'. Separately, reports indicative of 'chronic disorder of governance' have appeared in publications close to the establishment, suggesting 'prolonged ambiguity' in decision-making.

The Iranian tenacity during the Iraq war, and in the ongoing U.S.-Israel conflict, is evidence enough of its capacity and determination to endure and overcome adversity. Iran has asserted its place in the region and is not oblivious of it in the world of tomorrow.

Final resolution: An Iranian man rides a scooter past anti-U.S. banners placed outside the former U.S. embassy in Tehran, Iran on June 15. AFP

In the 1970s, the U.S. actually encouraged Iran to develop nuclear power arguing that the country would eventually run out of oil

The long-term implications of the U.S.-Iran deal

Mahesh Sachdev

A former Indian Ambassador with an interest in West Asia and oil matters

The world is holding its breath with respect to the June 14 adoption of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Iran and the United States for a cessation of hostilities and a 60-day period of negotiation to iron out their thorny differences. The scepticism stems from at least two scores of premature claims by U.S. President Donald Trump. Moreover, this is only the beginning of a meandering journey pebbled with numerous obstacles. Vicious bloodletting in two wars during the past year has exacerbated instinctual mutual distrust. Hence, even this vaguely worded framework is no mean feat.

Can the world now hope for a durable resolution to this multifaceted crisis, or does the MoU merely kick the can down the road? Some contextual developments create a space for cautious optimism. The respective announcements by both Tehran and Washington are factual and measured, eschewing trenchant triumphalism and demonisation. They have emphasised the complexity of negotiations; both realise that their asymmetric wars were militarily unwinnable, and a sustainable solution would require political negotiations with the recalcitrant enemy. The twin Hormuz blockades morphed into economic attrition, and Iran's threat of expanding the next war beyond the region, with the Houthis choking the Bab el-Mandeb strait again, was foreboding. Both sides were also facing growing domestic discontent, with their respective erratic conduct alienating supporters and neighbours. In front of the international community, both nations have lost their moral high ground, each appearing as irresponsible and vindictive.

A long road

The scope and complexity of the current issues are daunting. These include the question of U.S. sanctions, a release of over $100 billion of frozen Iranian assets, regional issues such as the crisis in Lebanon and the problem of U.S. military bases, and the demand for reparations. However, Iran's nuclear enrichment and its assertion of sovereignty over the Strait of Hormuz are deal breakers. Since President Trump tore down the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) in 2018, he now insists on a "better" deal, requiring Iran to export enriched uranium. However, Iranian hardliners are steadfastly opposed to this diktat. Moreover, Iran's closure of the Hormuz chokepoint has caused the "biggest energy disruption in human history", creating havoc for the global economy. A resolution of these two contentious issues would require protracted negotiations and creativity, allowing both sides to claim victories. A $300 billion fund to reconstruct Iran with U.S. companies, a typically bizarre Trumpian transactional diplomacy, is also reportedly on the table. Here, one must also mention the various other influences in the negotiation chamber – Israel and the states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) significantly influence the thinking at the White House, while China and Russia each have an inside track in Tehran. Pakistan, the official mediator, also has its own multiple axes to grind.

Discernible undercurrents

Irrespective of largely unaltered borders and an endgame that has barely commenced, the past three years of hostilities have triggered seismic geopolitical changes in West Asia and beyond, irretrievably unhinging its longstanding strategic paradigms. While the situation is still evolving, some basic medium-to-long-term undercurrents are discernible.

First, the two Iran wars have dramatically overturned numerous basic global assumptions. It has shown the limits of American hyperpower with its penchant for military solutions, high-tech battlefield dominance, air superiority doctrine, social media-provoked mass uprising etc. Iran was able to counter this with incipient strategies; careful planning for asymmetric warfare; smart and cost-effective tactics; a resilient and coherent command structure; leveraging of geostrategic assets; resolute supply chains and defence production among others. American MAGA (Make America Great Again) hotheads and Chinese wolf-warriors may need to pull in their claws, hopefully, making the world a safer place.

Moreover, the failure of ad-hoc coercive diplomacy may bring back multilateralism. Nations are now going to fret more about choke points, preventive diplomacy, robust supply lines, and adequate strategic reserves for essential inputs. Physical security and the succession of command of the political leadership would be prioritised and ruggedised.

Second, the hobbled return to regional peace may be catastrophic for global hydrocarbon supplies as depleting strategic reserves compete with demand destruction. In the long-term, high prices and volatility would destroy demand and hasten us towards the 'peak oil' scenario (a hypothetical point where global crude oil demand reaches its maximum rate and begins to decline). The disruptions have underscored the indispensability of higher strategic oil reserves and clean energy.

Third, there are two regional shifts which are currently underway. While U.S.-Israel relations remain strategic, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's mesmerisation of Mr. Trump has waned. The GCC states were traumatised by the U.S.-Israel coalition's "wars of choice". Apart from the collateral damage from Iranian attacks on their vital infrastructure, their exports via Hormuz also suffered. To add insult to injury, Washington neither consulted the GCC nor adequately protected them from Iranian retaliation. Moreover, the Pentagon's failure to anticipate the Iranian regime's staying power, Hormuz closure, or a plausible exit strategy has raised doubts about its war planning. This unsavoury experience has seriously undermined America's credibility as a security provider for the GCC. They are likely to reassess their geostrategic alignments as they contend with a weakened but defiant Iran. Their sub-optimal past experiences with external defence tie-ups may leave them with a Hobson's choice to shore up their defences, either individually or collectively. Given the GCC disunity, especially the Saudi-Emirati rivalry, burying their hatchets may not be easy, forcing them to accommodate and appease Iran individually. Alternatively, the Iranian grip on the Arab world's Shia militias, particularly in Iraq, may loosen, allowing a reassertion of their Arab and tribal identities.

A more defiant Iran

Fourth, while the Iranian state has defied existential threats, it has now convulsed and radicalised. Regionally friendless, the theocratic regime is in suspended apprehension amidst escalating foreign pressure and a brewing domestic blowback. Left to themselves, the Iranian leadership would insist on a strategic deterrence based on both nuclear latency and control of the Strait of Hormuz. But they also realise that this maximalism may scupper the forthcoming negotiations. A small but significant minority of Iran's leadership now believes that the Iranian capacity to block the Strait of Hormuz is the new and more potent deterrence than nuclear ambiguity. Instead of ensuring the Islamic Republic's survival, Iran's nuclear fixation has attained the opposite: entrenching Israel-U.S. enmity against it. Its direct cumulative costs are estimated at $100 billion, and if Western sanctions are factored in, costs will rise manifold. They argue that the nuclear strategy can be replaced by Iran's real or presumptive control over Hormuz, already proven to be an effective 'weapon of mass disruption'.

Tellingly, while Iran's Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei's statements have frequently asserted national sovereignty over Hormuz, he has not specifically referred to the indispensability of the nuclear programme. If this incipient shift in deterrence gets traction in Tehran, it could upend Iranian and regional geopolitics.

Tehran's control over Hormuz would be legally questionable and problematic for the global economy, especially for other littoral states. However, an innovative architecture can improve the optics, say, by creating a littoral inter-governmental Hormuz management framework, with Iran as *primus inter pares*.

And finally, in West Asia, those defeated on the battlefield often resort to terrorism to redeem their "lost honour". Israel's single-minded drive for a military solution against the 'axis of resistance' and the simultaneous weakening of Iran create such 'opportunities'. The pro-Iranian militias, particularly in Iraq and Lebanon, may go deeper underground to wage their mini-wars against perceived enemies. The decline of Iran and its proxies may give a second wind to the region's Sunni non-state actors such as the Islamic State, al-Qaeda, the Muslim Brotherhood, Hamas, Kurds, IS-Khorasan, and Jaish al-Adl.

Even if only a few of these forebodings are realised, one could ask if the botched surgery to decapitate Iran has not plunged the entire world into intensive care.

Debris and destruction: People and rescue forces search through the rubble following a strike on a school in Minab, Iran, on February 28. REUTERS

Irrespective of largely unaltered borders and an endgame that has barely commenced, the past three years of hostilities have triggered seismic geopolitical changes in West Asia and beyond

From Page One

India stares at 35% rain deficit amid El Niño trail

An analysis of the IMD's all-India June rainfall departures for El Niño years since 2000 shows no consistent early-season signal. In June 2015, during one of the strongest El Niño events on record, rainfall was 14% above normal. June 2002 and June 2004, both years that ended in drought, recorded near-normal June rainfall of around 2% and 1% above normal respectively, with the deficits arriving only in July and later.

Only in 2009 (47% below normal) and 2014 (44% below normal) did June rainfall fail as sharply as it has this year. In 2023, the most recent El Niño year, June closed about 8% below normal, within the IMD's normal range.

IMD's first-stage forecast in April this year pegged seasonal rainfall at 92% of the long-period average; its May-end update lowered this to 90% and assigned a 60% probability to a deficient year – the agency's most pessimistic pre-season call since 2015.

While the Union Agriculture Minister has maintained India is better placed than in earlier deficient seasons, analysts are more cautious: the rating agency ICRA has estimated that a serious farm disruption could add about 0.4 percentage points to retail food inflation, a risk the Reserve Bank of India has flagged.

PM at G7: world suffers from shortage of trust

Mr. Modi said the future of partnerships was based on re-building trust and urged countries to move beyond the donor-recipient paradigm and work as equals in the development context.

India, however, did not sign its name to a communique on restructuring the development finance ecosystem which the G7 and Kenya and South Korea supported, while putting its name to a call for coordinated response to the Ebola outbreak and a road map to fight cancer.

Videos showed Mr. Modi and Mr. Trump shaking hands before the meeting, during which they sat next to each other. Earlier, the two men – whose relationship has known better days – did not greet each other during a 'family photo' of the gathered leaders. While the Prime Minister and the U.S. President have spoken more than once on the phone since they met in person in February 2025, India-U.S. ties have frayed under the weight of several issues, most recently the killing of three Indian sailors in a U.S. strike on an oil tanker off the coast of Oman.

Prior to this, Mr. Trump's insistence that he had brought about a ceasefire to the four-day armed conflict between India and Pakistan in May 2025, the protracted negotiation of a preliminary trade deal – that has not been signed yet and other issues such as visas restrictions for skilled professionals as well as racism against Indians in the U.S., have challenged bilateral ties at several levels. The two men will hold talks on Wednesday.

Vijayabaskar quits as MLA, leaves AIADMK

Earlier, Maduranthakam MLA Maragatham Kumaravel, Perundurai MLA S. Jayakumar, Dharapuram MLA P. Sathyabama, and Ambasamudram MLA Esakki Subaya resigned from the Assembly and joined the TVK.

Dr. Vijayabaskar was among the 25 rebel MLAs who voted for the TVK government led by Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay during the vote of confidence in the Assembly on May 13, going against the directions of the party whip.

A section of AIADMK cadre in Pudukottai celebrated his resignation by distributing sweets and bursting crackers while terming Dr. Vijayabaskar a "traitor" and accusing him of having got the AIADMK-led alliance defeated in the five Assembly constituencies in Pudukottai district.

Govt. restricts Telegram app till NEET re-test

"Over the past few weeks, we removed hundreds of channels sharing leaked exam materials and related scams in India. We are also making the "edited" label more visible to prevent backdating scams." Mr. Durov said.

"Acting on inputs received continuously from NTA, from State law-enforcement agencies including the police forces of Bihar, Gujarat and Rajasthan, and from its own continuous monitoring of public channels and platforms, the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre, under the Ministry of Home Affairs, has secured the prompt take-down of a substantial number of Telegram channels, groups and bots whose names and content openly advertised their fraudulent and misleading purpose," the NTA said. In a video message, NTA Director-General Abhishek Singh said, "NTA is committed to a fair, secure and credible examination."

Late on Tuesday, Mr. Durov accused the Reliance Communications-associated networks of spreading the ban to other countries by transmitting configuration changes made as part of complying with the domestic blocking to other Internet providers. He urged networks in other countries to ignore these so-called BGP prefix announcements.

Stranded at sea: Indian mariner dies waiting for help

M. Kalyanaraman
CHENNAI

His name was Nishanth Uirthanathan. In Tamil, his last name means 'he who has come back to life', a reference to Jesus Christ.

On June 11, Uirthanathan, a 35-year-old second officer on *MT Celestial Sea*, died onboard the ship. He is not going to come back to life.

Uirthanathan's home address is listed as Theresapuram in Thoothukudi – a neighbourhood of hardy fisherfolk for whom righting a capsized boat at sea is routine. But, Uirthanathan died of sheer weakness.

With 16 Indian crew members, including the master of the ship, one Pakistani electrical officer, and one Indonesian cook, *Celestial Sea*'s problems encompass almost everything that Indian seafarers have faced in the past two-and-a-half months: depleting supplies, problems with owners, distress calls not being attended to, rationing of food and water, long stressful days in the war zone, and the U.S. Navy's hostile manoeuvres.

No medical help was offered to Uirthanathan even though he lay suffering for more than three days, not far from Oman's Duqm port. The master of the ship, Capt. Devendra Yadav, said the officer started vomiting and later stopped eating. Though he seemed to get better briefly, he subsequently collapsed and died.

All this time, the crew members were sending urgent messages to whoever would listen, including the Marine Rescue Coordination Committee, the manager of the vessel, Romana Shipping Company, and Duqm port authorities who apparently told him he had to get an agent to look after these things.

Distress calls: The crew on board *MT Celestial Sea* had sent out urgent messages about depleted supplies. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Three days before the officer's death, the company advised the master to sail to Shinas, Oman, so supplies could be arranged. But the Captain refused.

U.S. interception

The vessel was boarded by the U.S. Navy on May 19 while at Khor Fakkan and ordered to leave and go to Duqm, 400 nautical miles away from the Strait of Hormuz, he said. And the Captain didn't want to go back into the area where the U.S. Navy had marked him out.

In shipping, agents are available at every port to take care of such emergencies as well as arrange supplies, facilitate crew sign off-on and so on. The ship manager delayed in finding an agent at Duqm, said Capt. Yadav.

A helicopter evacuation was promised as Uirthanathan was still alive, but that didn't come either. In Capt. Yadav's opinion, Uirthanathan died because of food poisoning, but he didn't forget to add that the entire crew had been subsisting almost exclusively on rice and dhal for many months now – no vegetables nor meat.

Maritime rules across the world specify a healthy, balanced and nutritious diet for seafarers who perform physically tiring and exhausting work every day. There are no Sundays onboard a ship, nor Deepavali or Id.

After Uirthanathan died, his body lay decomposing for another three days in the crew recreation room. The emaciated crew recorded a video and sent it out to draw attention to their ordeal. On Sunday night, Duqm port authorities asked them to come in so that Uirthanathan's body could be removed.

Celestial Sea is a 20-year-old tanker that can carry 11,500 tonnes of cargo. The ship had left Singapore nearly a month and a half ago and its ordeal is not yet over.

Modi holds talks with Carney at G7; hopeful of trade deal

New Delhi and Ottawa have been negotiating a free trade agreement, with Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal visiting Canada last month with a delegation of over 100 industry representatives

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

Prime Minister Narendra Modi held bilateral talks with his Canadian counterpart Mark Carney on the fringes of the G7 Summit in Evian, France. Discussions covered trade, economy, energy, technology and people-to-people ties, according to Mr. Modi. Prior to the meeting, Mr. Modi said he hoped to accept Mr. Carney's invitation to visit Canada before the year ends, and to complete an India-Canada Free Trade Agreement (FTA) before then.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi meets his Canadian counterpart Mark Carney on the sidelines of the G7 Summit on Tuesday. ANI

"In less than a year, it is our fourth meeting, indicating our commitment to strong India-Canada ties. We reviewed the full range of relations between our nations, notably the ground covered since we last met," Mr. Modi said on X. The other three meetings occurred in June last year at the G7 Summit in Kananaskis, Canada and then the G20 Summit in November in Johannesburg.

'Significant progress'

"We have been openly exchanging views on bilateral relations and international developments, and we are making significant progress as friendly countries," Mr. Modi told Mr Carney on Tuesday, stressing the desire of India to advance technologically. Canada could be a major partner in energy security, Mr. Modi said. Canada is one of the top energy exporters in the world. New Delhi and Ottawa decided to progress their Security Energy Partnership in March this year, under which Canada's Cameco and the Department of Atomic Energy in India signed a CAD $2.6 billion commercial agreement for the long term supply (2027-2035) of uranium.

In 2024, India had been accused by Canadian authorities of orchestrating acts of violence and extortion in Canada, with Mr. Trudeau alleging that Indian agents were behind the killing of a pro-Khalistan individual, Hardeep Singh Nijjar, in British Columbia in three years prior. New Delhi had accused the Canadian government of being soft on anti-India extremism including not adequately protecting its diplomatic personnel and assets.

The two countries have been negotiating a free trade agreement, with Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal visiting Canada last month with a delegation of over 100 industry representatives. Faced with U.S. tariffs and multiple jokes about annexation from U.S. President Donald Trump, Mr. Carney has sought to diversify Canada's strategic and economic partnerships, deepening ties with China, India, Australia and Europe.

SC seeks response from Centre, States on Aadhaar 'misuse'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday sought responses from the Centre and States on a plea alleging misuse of Aadhaar cards issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) as proof of citizenship, domicile and residence.

The petition claimed that "infiltrators and illegal immigrants" are able to obtain the cards and project themselves as "lawful residents", thereby availing benefits to which they are not legally entitled.

A Bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice V. Mohana issued notice on the plea filed by advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay.

The petition contended that the continued use of Aadhaar for purposes beyond identity verification is contrary to Section 9 of the Aadhaar Act, 2016, which expressly states that Aadhaar is not proof of citizenship or domicile. It also relied on an August 2023 UIDAI notification clarifying that Aadhaar serves only as proof of identity and cannot be treated as proof of citizenship, residence or date of birth.

Electoral integrity

The plea also questioned the use of Aadhaar as proof of date of birth and residence in Form-6, the application form for fresh voter registration. Mr. Upadhyay argued that allowing Aadhaar to be used for this purpose could undermine the integrity of the electoral process.

"Aadhaar is not only being used as proof of age, citizenship & domicile for school admission, property purchase, and to obtain birth certificate, ration card, driving licence, but also being used in the application form for new voter registration (Form-6) as proof of date of birth & proof of residence. And thus, infiltrators & illegal immigrants are obtaining various documents using the Aadhaar," the plea stated.

Plea challenges use of Aadhaar for birth date and residence details for voter registration

Referring to what he described as the presence of a "huge number of illegal migrants" occupying "vast tracts of land, particularly along sensitive international borders", Mr. Upadhyay contended that the ease with which such persons can obtain Aadhaar cards enables them to secure other identity documents and eventually seek inclusion in electoral rolls.

"Infiltration is a weapon of political parties to subvert the electoral process for their benefit. West Bengal, Assam and other Northeastern States have been afflicted by cheap political tactics. The infiltrators are helped by either the party in power or the Opposition parties, and are also helped with identity documents such as Aadhaar/ration card. Once they have a plethora of documents, they enrol themselves in the voting list. Thus, the sacrosanct nature of the election process is compromised," the plea stated.

'Complete overhaul'

Accordingly, the petition sought an complete overhaul of the verification framework used in electoral processes and proposed the establishment of a high-powered monitoring committee comprising a retired Supreme Court judge along with cybersecurity and forensic experts to oversee reforms.

The plea also prayed for a direction to declare the use of Aadhaar for voter date-of-birth and residence verification as "void and inoperative".

Court to rule on Nimbalkar murder case on June 20

Chinmay Gaikwad
MUMBAI

A special CBI court in Mumbai will pronounce its judgment in the 2006 murder case of Congress leader Pawanraje Nimbalkar on June 20. The case, which has seen a trial lasting 15 years, involves allegations of a contract killing conspiracy against former NCP MP Padamsinh Patil, the victim's cousin.

Special court judge Satyanarayan Navandar, who had listed the case for judgment on Tuesday, adjourned the proceedings to June 20, stating that he needed more time to complete the judgment.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has named Mr. Patil as the prime accused. The agency's case states that Mr. Patil paid contract money to eliminate Nimbalkar owing to political and business rivalry.

Mr. Patil, a former Maharashtra Home Minister and a former MP, was an MLA at the time of the murder. He had held multiple Cabinet portfolios during his political career.

Modi holds bilateral talks with leaders of U.K. and UAE

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

Conversation with Starmer focused on further adding momentum to U.K.-India ties: PM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a bilateral meeting with U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer on the fringes of the G7 Summit in Evian, on Tuesday.

"Had a wonderful meeting with PM Starmer in Evian. The last year has been outstanding as far as India-U.K. relations are concerned. The trade deal has opened many avenues of economic cooperation," Mr. Modi said, adding that the conversation focused on further adding momentum to U.K.-India ties.

The deal, while signed, has not yet been operationalised.

The meeting comes as Mr. Starmer's political future is in question – with a byelection on Thursday that could put a potential contender for his post, Greater Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham, back in the U.K. Parliament. Under Mr. Starmer, the Labour Party underwent a reset and renewal of its ties with the Indian government (especially the Modi government) and Hindu Britons, among whom it was losing traction.

The Starmer government also finalised and signed a Free Trade Agreement with India in July 2025, after years of negotiations.

PM thanks UAE

Mr. Modi also met with the ruler and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan (MbZ). The discussions involved ways to strengthen the partnership, as per Mr. Modi.

The Prime Minister said he thanked the UAE for taking care of the Indian expatriate community. The UAE has been hit multiple times by Iran in recent months since the West Asia conflict began at the end of February, with one Indian killed in March.

Savarkar filed 10 mercy pleas, his kin tells court

Chinmay Gaikwad
MUMBAI

Satyaki Savarkar, the grandnephew Vinaofyak Damodar Savarkar, told a special MP/MLA court in Pune that the right-wing ideologue had submitted 10 clemency petitions to the British government seeking reduction of his sentence. The testimony was part of a criminal defamation case Mr. Satyaki has filed against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

During the hearing of the case in the court of special judge Amol Shinde, Mr. Satyaki said Savarkar was referred to as "veer" in a periodical run by the Gadar Organisation before he was transferred to the Andaman Islands.

Mr. Satyaki informed the court that records of Savarkar's 10 petitions exist in government archives. He said the language in these petitions did not indicate loyalty to the British regime and were forwarded by prison authorities for approval.

He said language used in clemency petitions followed official protocol.

APPEAL

Ethazhya is a one year old baby suffering from "B Cell - Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia". She needs Chemotherapy and Radiation Therapy at Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai. The total expenditure is **Rs.8,00,000/-**. Her father works as driver in a private company. The family cannot afford this huge cost. Please support this baby for the treatment. Donations sent by Ch/D.D. favouring **Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai will be acknowledged**. The donations sent through Ch/D.D/NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/c No. 60182010063310, IFSC No: CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT.

All correspondence is done through WWS, Regd Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No. GF 1, Corddel Apartments, O.No.13, N.No. 29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai-600006. Ph: 044-42137401/ 31523781/ 7338978027.**
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WWS

Saugata Roy threatens to move motion against Kakoli

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Trinamool Congress MP Saugata Roy on Tuesday threatened to move a privilege motion against Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, MP, who heads the dissident party faction that merged with the Nationalist Citizen Party of India this week, for breaking the parliamentary norm of not divulging the proceedings of a Standing Committee.

At the conclusion of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs that was deliberating on crimes against children, Ms. Dastidar spoke to the media criticising her former party's 15-year government in the State for its failure to check child trafficking and other crimes against children.

She said that she had asked officials of the Union Home Ministry what action would be taken on the issue and also what punishment would be fixed for those involved in either child abuse or child marriage.

Mr. Roy accused Ms. Dastidar of being oblivious about parliamentary rules.

Speaker asks Mamata faction to 'present its case' amid party split

Meet timing coincided with Abhishek's ED interrogation; he had written to Om Birla urging him not to grant separate status to any rebel faction

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Amid a petition by the Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar-led faction of 20 rebel Trinamool Congress MPs to merge with the Nationalist Citizen Party of India (NCPI), Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Monday invited the group of Trinamool MPs led by Mamata Banerjee to "present their case".

The Speaker's office was responding to a June 10 letter of Trinamool national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee.

Ongoing issue: Trinamool Congress leader Abhishek Banerjee was questioned by the ED for 11 hours in Kolkata on Monday. PTI

'Can't be separated'
The letter urged the Speaker not to recognise or grant separate status to any rebel Trinamool faction in the Lok Sabha. Mr. Banerjee said the Trinamool was a "single, indivisible political party"and that the legislature party cannot be separated from the parent organisation and that no breakaway group based on signatures can claim recognition.

According to the Mamata Banerjee faction, the invitation from the Speaker's office addressed to Mr. Banerjee came at 2 p.m., asking him to meet the Speaker at 4 p.m on Monday. On the same day, Mr. Banerjee was questioned by the Enforcement Directorate for 11 hours in Kolkata.

Party Lok Sabha member Kirti Azad informed the Speaker's office that since Mr. Banerjee did not have access to his email, he would be informed once the interrogation concluded. Meanwhile, Mr. Azad met Mr. Birla.

Ritabrata says 65 Trinamool MLAs back him, dares rivals to take floor test

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

The number of Trinamool Congress MLAs supporting Ritabrata Banerjee as the Leader of the Opposition in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly has increased to 65.

Mr. Banerjee, who participated in a Business Advisory Committee (BAC) meeting called by Speaker Rathindra Bose on Tuesday, emphasised that he was the leader of the Trinamool Congress Legislature Party and dared his rivals to undergo a floor test in the House.

"I am saying this because people outside are making so many statements, and the media is also showing immense interest in these remarks. So, my message to everyone is that if the Speaker feels a floor test needs to happen, let there be a floor test. Once the floor test takes place, all this endless rhetoric and cross-talk will come to an end," the Uluberia Purba MLA said. Mr. Ritabrata said the number of MLAs supporting him continued to rise and had reached 65.

Bengal MLA Ritabrata Banerjee says once the floor test takes place, all the endless rhetoric and cross-talk will come to an end. ANI

On June 3, two days after being expelled from the Trinamool Congress, Mr. Ritabrata was announced as the Leader of the Opposition, with 58 of the 80 MLAs supporting him.

Mamata loyalists
On Tuesday, the Speaker did not invite the MLAs believed to be loyal to Trinamool Congress chairperson Mamata Banerjee for the BAC meeting, which took place ahead of the Budget Session of the Assembly. Representatives of the CPI(M), Congress, ISF, and AJUP were present at the meeting. Trinamool MLAs such as Sobhandeb Chattopadhyay and Kunal Ghosh, who continue to side with the party chairperson, raised questions about the lack of invitation.

HC seeks answers
The Calcutta High Court on Tuesday questioned the State government whether the Speaker can *suo motu* recognise the Leader of the Opposition when two proposals are on the table.

During the hearing of a petition filed by Mr. Sobhandeb against the recognition of Mr. Ritabrata as the Leader of the Opposition, Justice Krishna Rao asked, "If the Speaker is having two proposals of the same party what is his duty? How can he recognise one *suo motu*?"

The first proposal to elect the Leader of the Opposition came from Trinamool Congress general secretary Abhishek Banerjee, nominating Mr. Sobhandeb for the post, with 70 MLAs supporting him. There were allegations that some signatures had been forged, and the CID is probing the matter.

"We can also see that one proposal was also there by 70 MLAs, then came one with 58 MLAs. How can the Speaker sitting in his chamber decide which is right or wrong? Why is the House there? How can you say that you will accept the 58 by ignoring the first proposal?" Justice Rao asked.

Additional Advocate-General Bilwadal Bhattacharya responded that the 58 MLAs had gone to the Assembly and claimed that they were in the majority and had chosen the Leader of the Opposition and the party whip. The matter will be heard again on Wednesday.

Cong. calls for time-bound judicial probe into Ram Temple donations issue

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Congress leaders on Tuesday demanded a time-bound investigation by a sitting judge of a High Court into donations missing from the Ram Mandir Trust, alleging "organised plunder' of hundreds of crores of rupees by the Bharatiya Janata Party and Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).

Congress leaders Ajay Rai and Aradhana Misra addressing the media at AICC headquarters in New Delhi on Tuesday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

The nation's faith had been betrayed by the BJP-RSS, and sold in the name of religion, the Opposition party said.

U.P. Congress chief Ajay Rai said the probe by the special investigation team (SIT) into the matter was "a farce".

"The information that is coming out regarding the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi shows that there has been organised loot, in which big people are involved, and this is being said by a former BJP MP himself. Gopal Rao, a member of the Trust, has already been controversial. Champat Rai Bansal absconded with all the wealth. People with backgrounds in the RSS, including Anil Mishra, were given positions in the trust. Now the government has formed an SIT in this matter and has accepted that a huge irregularity has taken place," Mr. Rai said.

"Earlier, the BJP-RSS people collected a lot of money in the name of 'Shila Pujan' at Shri Ram Janmabhoomi, of which there is no account. This represents a theft of hundreds of crores of rupees.The BJP-RSS have stolen people's faith and offerings to God. The BJP-RSS have committed organised plunder at Shri Ram Janmabhoomi. It is unfortunate that the responsibility of investigation in the SIT has been given to an officer who himself is facing an investigation into the stampede at the Mahakumbh. In such a situation, it's clear that the BJP is just going through the formalities [of a probe]. We demand a time-bound investigation by a sitting judge of the High Court on the issue of this organised loot," Mr. Rai said.

In a related development, Santosh Dubey, who claims to have been an activist in the agitation for the Ram Mandir, has submitted a written complaint at the Ram Janmabhoomi Police Station in Ayodhya to register a case against the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra trust secretary Champat Rai and three others, namely, Anil Mishra, Gopal Rao, and Tinu, accusing them of embezzling temple donations.

Senior BJP leaders hold meeting, discuss organisational restructuring

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party's expansion in recent years, without a corresponding restructuring of its organisational set-up, has been weighing heavily on the party leadership. With a new national team as well as a Cabinet reshuffle said to be in the offing, discussions on organisational restructuring have taken centre stage.

Proposals, including appointing parliamentary Board members, barring Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP president Nitin Nabin, as incharges of specific regions of the country on the lines of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) *kshetra pracharaks* (regional organiser), and increasing the total number of BJP national office-bearers from the current 45 to 60, are on the anvil.

Many of these proposals were discussed on Monday. Meetings were first held between BJP general secretary (organisation) B.L. Santosh and senior RSS leaders, including *sah sarkaryavah* (joint general secretary) Arun Kumar, ahead of a separate high-level interaction at Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's residence. Union Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP president Nitin Nabin, BJP joint general secretary (organisation) Shiv Prakash, and Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan were present at the meeting, which went on for over four hours.

Mulling changes: BJP chief Nitin Nabin and Union Minister Amit Shah were present at the meeting. PTI

Detailed review
According to BJP sources, the discussions focused on restructuring the party organisation at the national level and possible changes in its functioning. There was also a detailed review of the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) issue, as well as the political situation in poll-bound States, including Punjab, and other ongoing political developments.

Sources said key organisational issues discussed included a possible reconstitution of the BJP Parliamentary Board, the introduction of a new system of regional in-charge leaders, strengthening the party's grievance redress mechanism, and increasing the participation of women within the organisation. There were also discussions on expanding the number of BJP office-bearers, as well as the party's national executive and national council.

The number of central office-bearers, currently around 45, may be increased to about 60, according to sources.

The idea of appointing eight or nine regional in-charge leaders drawn from members of the Parliamentary Board has been under discussion for some time as part of a broader exercise aimed at decentralisation of power and strengthening organisational oversight.

Strengthening the party
In addition, discussions were held on strengthening the BJP's political position in four key States: West Bengal, Punjab, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

Following its recent success in West Bengal, the party is now expected to focus more intensively on Punjab, with Mr. Shah likely to play a central role in shaping strategy going forward.

Sources indicated that the meeting was part of a broader exercise ahead of the announcement of the BJP president's new national team and a possible reshuffle in the Union government.

The deliberations are also seen as preparations to finalise organisational and governmental changes after Prime Minister Narendra Modi returns from his overseas visit on Thursday.

NDA MLAs shifted to hotel ahead of RS polls

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

Days ahead of the polling for the two Rajya Sabha seats in Jharkhand, MLAs of the Opposition NDA on Tuesday started shifting to a luxury hotel in Ranchi.

The polling will be done on June 18. One seat has become vacant following the death of Dishom Guru Shibu Soren last year, while the other vacancy is due to the completion of BJP member Deepak Prakash's tenure on June 21.

Jharkhand BJP leaders have already expressed confidence in the victory of the BJP-backed Independent candidate Parimal Nathwani in one of the two seats in the State. From the INDIA bloc, Baidyanath Ram of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) and Pranav Jha of the Congress are the two candidates.

The BJP-led NDA does not have the required MLAs to ensure the victory of Mr. Nathwani as a candidate is required to secure a minimum of 28 first-preference votes to emerge victorious. Mr. Nathwani can only win if they manage to get the first-preference votes of four more MLAs through cross-voting.

A.P. CM's criticism of Opposition over Delimitation Bill unfair, says Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Reacting to Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's comments criticising the Opposition for not backing the Delimitation Bill despite the government's assurance that the strength of every State in the Lok Sabha would increase by 50%, the Congress pointed out that no such amendment was ever moved by the government.

In a post quoting Mr. Naidu's interview to a daily, Congress general secretary (Communications) Jairam Ramesh said the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister was being "unfair" to the Opposition. He said that on April 16, the Telugu Desam Party had suggested an amendment to the Delimitation Bill, proposing a blanket 50% increase in the Lok Sabha seats for all States while maintaining the current proportionality.

Jairam Ramesh

Mr. Ramesh said in a post on social media platform X, "But the super-confident, super-arrogant Union Home Minister never actually moved such an amendment that the TDP was asking for. That is the REAL question – what devious games was the self-declared Chanakya – who stood brutally exposed on the evening of April 17, 2026 – playing?"

Mr. Naidu was quoted as saying that the intention of the government was clear from the beginning and that it had stated on the floor of the House that there would be a 50% increase in seats across States without altering the proportion of seats. He said it was only an omission from the text of the Bill and that the Opposition had unnecessarily made it an issue.

'TDP overshadowed'
Mr. Ramesh also took a dig at the TDP, pointing out that the Andhra Pradesh-based party is no longer the biggest NDA ally. "Now the TDP has been overshadowed by an obscure Nationalist Citizen Party of India," he said.

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For details and online submission of bid please visit www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
Last date of submission of bids: 23.06.2026, 03.00 PM.
16.06.2026 Registrar, C-DIT

KSEB
KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED - TENDER NOTICE
Office of the Chief Engineer(Commercial &Tariff),Vydyuthi Bhavanam, Thiruvananthapuram
Inviting Short term tender for the procurement of 200MW RTC power from 15th July 2026 to 14th July 2027
DEEP portal reference no - KSEBL/Short/26-27/ET/27 dtd 15.06.2026.
Submission of RfP (online digitally signed non financial technical Bid and IPOs)-26.06.2026, 02.00 pm
For more details visit www.kseb.in Ref : PR/MC1/F-391/2026

इसरो isro
Government of India, Department of Space
ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC)
Mahendragiri P.O., Tirunelveli District, Tamil Nadu-627133, India
CORRIGENDUM
16.06.2026
In continuation to the e-NIT notifications published, the sale period for the below-mentioned works is extended up to 29-06-2026.
1. Vertical extension of Main Building at IPRC, Mahendragiri. [Civil, PH, Electrical & AC works] (No.: IPRC/CMG/TD/e-10/MW/CMP-02/2026-27, Dated: 22-05-2026) (Estimated cost : ₹ 565.00 Lakhs)
2. Construction of LVM3 Hardware storage facility at IPRC, Mahendragiri [Civil, PH, Electrical, Mechanical & AC works] (No.: IPRC/CMG/TD/e-11/MW/CMP-03/2026-27, Dated: 22-05-2026) (Estimated cost : ₹ 1259.59 Lakhs)
For eligibility criteria and other details, interested tenderers may please refer to the detailed bilingual (Hindi-English) Notice Inviting Tenders (NIT) on the website https://www.isro.gov.in/Tenders.html and tender free view at https://www.tenderwizard.com/isro
Group Head, CMG

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS - TIRUPATI
DIVISIONAL ENGINEER (ELEC)-I e-AUCTION NOTICE ID No. 25769
Scrap electrical materials in Total 06 (Six) Lots of Disposal of Scrap / Fused materials of Assorted PVC Wires, UG Cables, Fans, Coolers, DG Sets, AC Units, e-waste materials & Wet/Dry Batteries etc., available at DPW Stores (Elec), Near TTD Press, Opp. TTD Ad Building, Tirupati, will be sold through e-auction to be conducted through https://konugolu.ap.gov.in/ on 30-06-2026.
Contact Phone Nos. 9491454257,7702684333, 9704234644.
TTD-40021(31)/1/2026-PRO SEC(Adv.No.81) Date:16-06-2026 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER PWD ZONE KOTA
No. 716 Dated 10.06.2026
NIT No. 06/2026-27
Notice Inviting Bid
NIB No. PWD2627A1042
Bids for PWD Zone Kota are invited Budget Annoucement 2026-27 Road Work from interested bidders upto 6.00 pm, 06.07.2026 other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the Rajasthan and http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in website. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 2440.10 lacs. (5 Works)
1. UBN No. PWD2627WSOB04526
2. UBN No. PWD2627WLOB04527
3. UBN No. PWD2627WSOB04528
4. UBN No. PWD2627WLOB04529
5. UBN No. PWD2627WSOB04530
DIPR/C/10383/2026
Addl. Chief Engineer
PWD Zone Kota

INBRIEF

Mann describes controversial video as fake and malicious

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Tuesday denied allegations that he is the person in a controversial video that hurt Sikh sentiments, a day after the Sikh clergy at the Akal Takht declared him 'Guru *dokhi*' (anti-Guru) and 'Khalsa Panth *virodhi*' (anti-Khalsa Panth). The Akal Takht is the highest seat of temporal authority for the Sikh community. Dismissing the video as "fake", Mr. Mann said "a malicious and politically motivated conspiracy" was being executed at the behest of Shiromani Akali Dal leader Sukhbir Singh Badal to defame him and derail his Aam Aadmi Party-led government's pro-people decisions.

Mamata files challenge to Bhabanipur results in HC

Trinamool Congress chairperson and former West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday filed an election petition before the Calcutta High Court, challenging the poll result of the Bhabanipur Assembly seat which she lost to BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari. Mr. Adhikari, now the first BJP Chief Minister of West Bengal, defeated Ms. Banerjee by a margin of 15,105 votes from Bhabanipur. The former Chief Minister was accompanied by Trinamool Congress leaders Dola Sen and Kunal Ghosh during her visit to the High Court. Ms. Banerjee had represented Bhabanipur Assembly seat from 2011 to 2026, during her tenure as Chief Minister.

SC comes to aid of elderly woman, son with disability

The Supreme Court has come to the aid of an octogenarian woman and her visually challenged son from Bagadia village in Odisha's Subarnapur district, taking *suo motu* cognisance of newspaper reports highlighting their dire living conditions. The court directed the State government to ensure that they received all eligible social security benefits and basic amenities so that they could live a "dignified life". A Bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice V. Mohana issued the directions in a *suo motu* case registered on Monday concerning the welfare of persons with disabilities living in extreme poverty.

NIA seizes Amritsar house of accused in narco-terror case

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday attached a house in Punjab's Amritsar, linked to an alleged Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) operative, in a transnational narco-terror network case under the UAPA. "An NIA team carried out the attachment following the due process of law," the agency said. The property was registered in the name of the father of accused Ankush Kapoor, "a key operative in India of the narco-terror network spread across Italy, Australia, Iran, Thailand, UAE, and Pakistan among other countries". The NIA's investigations revealed Mr. Kapoor's links to a Dubai-based accused connected with the LeT.

Air Force ferrying NEET question papers by aircraft

Bundles flown to more than 20 locations across the country; papers delivered to several northern States on Tuesday, while dry runs were conducted at selected locations across southern India

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

The Indian Air Force (IAF) started ferrying National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) question papers by its aircraft on Tuesday to more than 20 locations across the country for the re-test on Sunday. The operation will continue on Wednesday, official sources said.

The Air Force has been deployed to ensure the secure and timely delivery of confidential examination material. More than 22 lakh candidates took the undergraduate medical entrance test held on May 3 which was cancelled following a large-scale paper leak.

According to official sources, the IAF used its transport aircraft, with Mi-17 helicopters being deployed for onward movement to remote and difficult-to-access areas.

An Indian Air Force Mi-17 helicopter does a trial run in Tirunelveli on Tuesday prior to delivery of NEET question papers. PTI

A senior official confirmed that question papers were delivered to several northern States on Tuesday, while dry runs were conducted at selected locations in southern India to validate security and logistics arrangements.

An Indian Air Force helicopter did a trial landing at the Tirunelveli Armed Reserve Ground in Tamil Nadu as part of the preparations, the official added.

The confidential packets are being transported under stringent security protocols and will be distributed to designated examination centres under close surveillance after reaching their respective destinations.

Central Reserve Police Force and Central Industrial Security Force personnel have been deployed to secure the transportation chain at every stage.

The Defence Ministry, Home Ministry, Postal Department, and State governments are coordinating under a framework overseen by the Education Ministry.

Stringent security

The deployment of military assets comes as the government and the National Testing Agency (NTA) implement a multi-layered security framework to ensure the integrity of one of India's largest competitive examinations.

Officials said additional safeguards had been introduced, including strict isolation of paper setters, enhanced monitoring mechanisms, real-time tracking of question paper movement, and coordinated security deployment at examination centres.

The re-test will be conducted under heightened vigilance, with nearly five lakh security personnel.

Student accused in NEET-UG leak can take June 21 re-test

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Protests have been held across the country over the NEET paper leak issue. PTI

A Delhi court on Tuesday permitted Yash Yadav, a medical student accused in the NEET-UG 2026 paper leak case, to appear for the re-examination scheduled for Sunday.

Special judge Vishal Gogne of the Rouse Avenue Court said that though the applicant was accused of serious offences relating to the alleged circulation and sale of confidential examination material, those charges alone could not deprive him of his right to sit for the test.

The direction came while the court was hearing an application filed by Mr. Yadav seeking temporary release from judicial custody for 15 days.

He submitted that the relief was necessary to enable him to appear for the medical entrance re-test and attend a family function.

The court, however, reserved its decision on his plea for interim bail.

In an earlier order, the court had allowed the accused access to study material while in custody so that he could prepare for the re-test.

Mr. Yadav is among those named in the ongoing investigation into the leak of the NEET-UG 2026 question paper. The controversy prompted authorities to cancel the earlier examination and conduct a fresh test on June 21 under enhanced security arrangements.

IORA examining Canada's request to be observer

Saptaparno Ghosh
NEW DELHI

Canada's application to become an observer in the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) "is being examined" at the 28th meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials being held in New Delhi, Sanjiv Ranjan, IORA's Secretary-General, told *The Hindu* on Monday.

"Canada has made an application to become a dialogue partner of the organisation, and it is being examined at this meeting," he said.

Mr. Ranjan added member states could benefit from Canada's potential inclusion into the fold considering its expertise in varied maritime domains.

"They [Canada] are a big maritime power because of the huge coastal zones they have, they also have various initiatives and expertise in maritime safety, security and connectivity, among other areas, which would be of help to other member states of the organisation," he said.

Sanjiv Ranjan

Mr. Ranjan welcomed the potential peace deal between Iran and the U.S. that could end more than 100 days of hostilities in the Strait of Hormuz.

"It is a welcome thing that we may have an agreement by the end of this week as has been reported," he said.

Listing out priorities in the Indian Ocean, Mr. Ranjan said disaster response and mitigation remain a priority for IORA. He said the adverse impact of climate change would be "disproportionate" in the Indian Ocean. "Therefore, we must be ready in dealing with that," he said.

Air Force to take part in 'Exercise Pitch Black'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Indian Air Force (IAF) will participate in Exercise Pitch Black 2026, the Royal Australian Air Force's (RAAF) premier multinational air combat exercise, scheduled to be held in Australia's Northern Territory from July 20 to August.

Australian High Commissioner to India Philip Green OAM announced India's participation on X on Tuesday, tagging the IAF's official handle and citing the exercise as an opportunity to strengthen regional interoperability across the Indo-Pacific.

According to the Australian Defence Ministry, the exercise will bring together more than 100 aircraft and personnel from 19 allied and partner nations, providing a platform for participating air forces to enhance operational interoperability, strengthen military cooperation, and refine air combat tactics. Exercise Pitch Black is the RAAF's largest international exercise.

SC issues notice on plea for overseeing rehabilitation units

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

States must prescribe standards for mental health establishments catering to children, says petition

The Supreme Court on Tuesday issued notice on a public interest litigation (PIL) petition seeking monitoring and oversight of rehabilitation centres, child development centres and mental health establishments catering to children with disabilities.

A Bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justice V. Mohana passed the order while hearing a petition filed by disability rights lawyer Rahul Bajaj and child rights activist Zaheer Abbas Jan. The Bench said it required consideration "on priority".

Highlighting that the condition of rehabilitation centres for children with disabilities reflects a "significant gap" between legislative intent and implementation, the petition contended that statutory safeguards under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016; the Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) Act, 1992; and the Mental Healthcare Act (MHCA), 2017, are often not complied with. As a result, children are frequently denied essential therapies owing to a shortage of trained personnel, while inadequate supervision and neglect expose them to unsafe conditions.

The petition also pointed out that the MHCA requires States to prescribe minimum quality standards for mental health establishments catering to children with mental illnesses. However, it states that only five States and Union Territories have framed such standards so far.

The petitioners have also sought directions to all States and Union Territories to put in place a time-bound mechanism for the registration of mental health professionals.

Delhi Police bust terror syndicate, seven held

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police have said that their Special Cell busted a Pakistan-backed international terror-crime syndicate operated by gangster-turned-terrorist Shahzad Bhatti and his associate Ajmal Gujjar. The police arrested seven operatives involved in smuggling illegal arms, ammunition and narcotics from Pakistan into Delhi-NCR.

The police said the network was functioning under the patronage of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence and was using individuals from India to further terror activities. The arrested include Uttar Pradesh and Punjab residents who have previous criminal records. They were in direct contact with handlers in Pakistan.

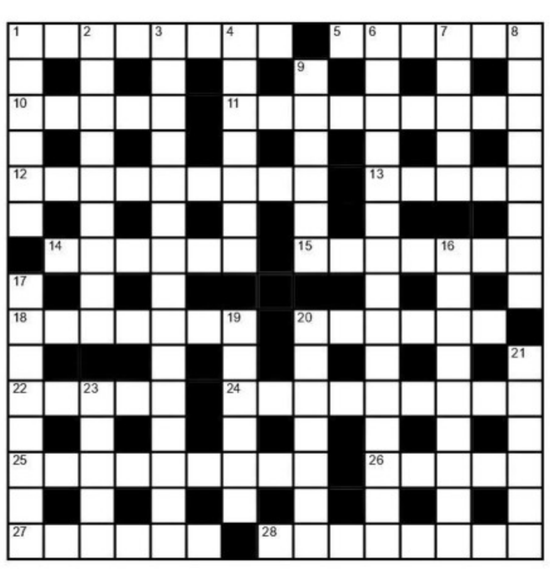
"The timely intervention by Special Cell not only disrupted the activities of this organised module but also prevented several planned terror incidents," said Narra Chaitanya, DCP, Crime. Guns and phones were also seized.

TH CROSSWORD + 14822

(set by Dr. X)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://thehindu.com/crosswords*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Primarily sexy mate turned on bar girl immediately (4-4)
5 Smuggles exotic snakes (6)
10/6 What diligent geologists will do to make every possible effort (5,2,5,8)
11 Extorts a definite promise from foolish son-in-law stifling daughter (5,4)
12 Impression made by English nationalist ranting about Government (9)
13 Young bird of duck, beginning to leap into water (5)
14 Whispers of women going astray, enthralled by dope (6)
15 Rat is over top of rusted grille (7)
18 Hamper in cabin, extremely large (7)
20 Dog at home stops crook (6)
22 Start to examine decay over back of leg in fungal disease (5)
24 Drug that arouses remarkable lust, mating endlessly (9)
25 What may cause quivering lips to meet, expressing first sign of passion? (9)
26 Overwhelmed by tackling a nasty parasitic disease of livestock (5)
27 Director went up after drinking whiskey to sleep (6)
28 Be able to lazily captivate date in a forthright manner (8)

Down

1 Collect rupees over large tray (6)
2 Swilling ales again for relief of pain (9)
3 American in wild bender lets loose after take-off for fun (4,3,8)
4 Sister thus returned to welcome hundred and one papal ambassadors (7)
6 See 10 Across
7 Key left behind a parcel in retreat (5)
8 Clean seats in compound outside institute (8)
9 Gifted extraordinary toy (6)
16 Help design a hotel in property (4,1,4)
17 Admirable seed easily wins match, making a comeback (8)
19 Phoney arrested by officers at Zurich (6)
20 Fancy songstress captivating one million admirers at premiere (7)
21 Regular boyfriend in filthy place, cuddling topless escort (6)
23 Relish breeze on top of observatory (5)

SUDOKU

7				2				
5		4	6			8		
	1	6	8	5			4	
	2							9
		3				4		
9							6	
	6			9	2	3	1	
		2			3	6		7
				7				4

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

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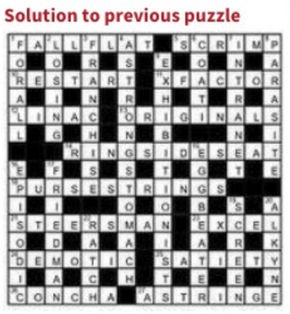
Solution to previous puzzle



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

5	6	8	4	3	1	2	7	9
7	4	3	6	2	9	1	8	5
9	2	1	5	7	8	4	3	6
4	1	9	2	8	3	6	5	7
8	3	5	1	6	7	9	4	2
6	7	2	9	5	4	8	1	3
2	5	4	3	1	6	7	9	8
1	8	6	7	9	5	3	2	4
3	9	7	8	4	2	5	6	1

FAITH

Surrender, the simpler path

Scriptures declare that Janardhana alone grants moksha, said Sri Desika Srinivasa Thathachariar in a discourse. The Lord may be attained through two paths: Bhakti Yoga (devotion) and Prapatti or Saranagati (complete surrender). The Bhagavad Gita explains that through Karma Yoga one disciplines the body, mind, and senses, and through Jnana Yoga, one gains spiritual knowledge. When this knowledge matures, it becomes Bhakti, which grows into Parabhakti and ultimately leads to liberation. Lord Krishna teaches that only through Ananya Bhakti, exclusive devotion to Him, can one truly know and realise Him.

Bhakti Yoga is practised through Ashtanga Yoga, as described in the scriptures. This eightfold discipline is also mentioned by Sri Patanjali Maharshi in the Patanjali Yoga Sutra. Its eight limbs are Yama, Niyama, Asana, Pranayama, Pratyahara, Dharana, Dhyana and Samadhi. Yama includes virtues such as non-violence, truthfulness, compassion, self-control, moderation and purity. Niyama includes faith in God, charity, scriptural study, self-discipline and japa. The remaining limbs involve posture, breath control, sense withdrawal, concentration, meditation, and finally Samadhi, the highest state of uninterrupted absorption in the Lord. Great sages such as Parasara Maharshi attained direct realisation of the Lord through Bhakti Yoga. However, since practising all eight limbs perfectly is extremely difficult, Lord Krishna compassionately revealed the simpler path of Prapatti (Saranagati) in the Bhagavad Gita, 18th Adhyaya, sloka 66, teaching complete surrender to Him as the direct means of attaining His grace and reaching the eternal bliss of Paramapada.

INBRIEF

Essar Group, Dubai's IRH sign $500 mn crude-sourcing deal

Essar Group and Dubai-based International Resources Holding (IRH) have executed a $500 million crude sourcing and product supply facility between Essar Energy Transition Fuels and IRH Global Trading. This comes a day after American President Dolald Trump announced the U.S.-Iran peace deal, indicating a gradual normalisation of the situation in West Asia. While IRH Global Trading is a key global energy trading and liquidity provider, Essar Group through Essar Energy Transition Fuels, owns and operates the Stanlow Refinery U.K. This would enable Essar Energy Transition Fuels to diversify crude sourcing and marketing options for its products while optimising working capital arrangements. It would boost feedstock security in an increasingly volatile global energy market, enhancing its ability to respond to changing market conditions.

Unilever scales digital twins partnering with Accenture

Unilever said it partnered with Accenture to scale the use of AI-enabled digital twins across its global manufacturing network. Digital twins are virtual models of factory gear and production lines. They use live data from physical systems on shop floor to predict how machines and processes perform. The technology would help factories boost quality, efficiency and respond quickly to consumer demand. The multi-year programme marked a further step in Unilever's journey to apply the pioneering technology across its value chain. According to the official communique, by integrating digital twins with AI-enabled insights and agentic capabilities, Unilever would be equipping manufacturing teams with advanced tools to identify issues sooner, simulate scenarios faster and make smarter decisions across the production cycle.

'Rupee slide aided textile exporters in 2025-2026'

The industry is hoping for a revival of the market in the coming weeks with the Free Trade Ageements and end of the U.S.-Iran war; AEPC to organise buyer-seller meets to boost offtake

M. Soundariya Preetha
COIMBATORE

Textiles and apparels, which are among India's top merchandise exports, saw a 2% y-o-y decline in shipments in FY2025-2026.

Exports in FY26 were worth $35.80 billion against $36.61 billion in FY25.

The Union Commerce Ministry data points to a 1.78% CAGR of textile and apparel exports from 2014-2015 ($29.47 billion) to FY 26. It peaked to $37.54 billion in 2021-2022. And then, growth declined by 2% last financial year.

According to data compiled by the Southern India Mills Association (SIMA) based on government statistics, exports were $37 billion in FY15, This crossed $40 billion in FY22, but fell to $36.44 billion in FY25 and closed FY26 at $35.78 billion.

There are multiple factors affecting exports in the last 12 years and mainly in the last two years, say industry sources.

Glimmer of hope: Suppliers to the United States are expecting to get tariff refunds at least to some extent. AFP

Exchange rate

"We need to take into consideration the exchange rate in 2024-2025 and 2025-2026. The rupee was at 86.60 on April 2, 2025 and ended 2025-2026 at 94.83 on March 31 this year," said an export promotion council official, who did not want to be identified.

"When the U.S. orders fell in 2025-2026, demand from China, Bangladesh and Sri Lank improved. There was a regional balance to some extent.

"In terms of volume, exports may have grown marginally between 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 though there were severe supply chain disruptions," said Siddhartha Rajagopal, executive director of the Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council.

"Though exports to Africa shot up for a few months last fiscal, it was one of the most uncertain periods for the textile and garment exporters," said K. Sakthivel, chairman of the Powerloom Development Export Promotion Council. "We are in Japan now and talking to buyers. We will get a better picture in the coming days," he said.

Exports to the U.S.

Chairman of the Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) A. Sakthivel said that though orders from the U.S., which are among the top three markets for Indian exporters, saw several challenges in 2025-2026, because of the tariff threat. Buyers did not vanish totally. Some of them reduced the prices, some of them shifted a part of the orders, and some waited. So, there were still orders going to the U.S. last year. Now, the suppliers are expecting to get tariff refunds at least to some extent," he said.

AEPC plans to organise buyer-seller meets from September in the EU countries to tap the opportunities that will come with the implementation of the Free Trade Agreement, A. Sakthivel added.

Regarding long-term export performance, industry officials said when the rupee was about 65 per dollar in FY15, annual textile and garment exports were almost $30 billion, going by Commerce Ministry statistics. With the Indian rupee at almost 95 in 2025-2026, exports are at $35 billion. Basically, exports are not growing and apparel shipments have witnessed a major impact, especially in the last couple of years. This is felt more by the MSME exporters, they said.

Likely drop

There are some in the industry who feel that in terms of volume of exports between 2014-2015 and 2025-2026, there could have been a one-third drop. Indian Chamber of Commerce, National Expert Committee on Textiles head Sanjay K. Jain said that apparel exports contraction in May (12.98%) is partly due to West Asia slowing down and also because of the higher base of 2024-2025 because of the rush in orders to meet the tariff deadline.

The industry is hoping for a revival of the market in the coming weeks with the FTAs and end of the U.S.-Iran war.

LNG ships may headline Strait of Hormuz exits

M. Kalyanaraman
CHENNAI

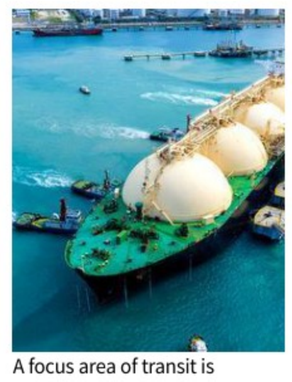
The U.S. Vice President told a news channel that though Iran's nuclear programme would need substantial talks, there was an understanding between the two countries the Strait of Hormuz would reopen "in a toll-free way for the long term, and that's the sort of thing that we're going to figure out in these technical talks." Earlier, President Donald Trump said the area was being demined and traffic would return to pre-war levels over the next two weeks.

While details of the pact would aid global shippers decide on transits, a focus areas is Liquified Natural Gas (LNG) shipping.

On Tuesday, Qatari officials reportedly told investors output can rise to 83% of original capacity within weeks. 17% was damaged in war attacks. Shipping observers report those that try to exit first in numbers may well be LNG ships, which is good news for India as they are critical for local fertilizer making needed for kharif season.

On Monday, the Centre said 16 fertilizer-laden vessels were awaiting passage via the Strait.

Through May, LNG ship transit began happening on the sly with many switching off the Automatic Identification System and taking the Oman route, indicating they were not explicitly permitted by Iran. LNG carrier Umm Al Ashtan, which left Dahej, Gujarat after unloading cargo there, headed to the Strait beginning of May.


A focus area of transit is liquified natural gas.

India's Disha crossed on Monday. Junlin Wang, gas and LNG researcher, Rystad Energy says as of Tuesday, about 13 LNG vessels had crossed the Strait.

"Since last week, the main new confirmed movements were Al Daayen, Lebrethah, Rasheeda and Marigold. Al Daayen, Lebrethah and Rasheeda were Qatar-related/Ras Laffan-loaded cargoes, while Marigold was UAE/ADNOC-related, loaded from Das Island. Their destinations are mainly Asia, including China, Pakistan, Southeast Asia and India," she said, and added, "We expect the recovery to be gradual."

Qatar and the UAE LNG exports are a key part of global LNG supply, together reaching about 86.5 MT in 2025, equivalent to about 7.2 MT per month, representing about 19.5% of global LNG exports.

"The destination exposure is heavily Asia-oriented," said Ms. Wang.

GIC Re stake sale over subscribed 3.72 times

N. Ravikumar
HYDERABAD

The Centre's decision to shed stake in General Insurance Corporation of India was oversubscribed 3.72 times on day one of the two-day offer for sale (OFS) on Tuesday.

The OFS received "enthusiastic response from the investors on day one and was oversubscribed 3.72 times. The government has decided to exercise the entire green shoe option (5%)," Secretary, Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) Arunish Chawla posted on X.

'Australian pension funds look for even-playing field'

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Australian pension funds are interested in India's growth, evaluating projects against global allocations and demanding a level playing field, said Philip Green, High Commissioner of Australia to India in a conversation with *The Hindu*.

Philip Green

However, according to the High Commissioner, future investment hinges on India addressing higher taxation on Australian funds compared with competitors like Singapore. Providing competitive, world-class tax treatment would significantly raise India's attractiveness for these massive institutional investments, he stated.

India opportunity

Mr. Green said Australian pension funds are big organisations with massive staff. "When I go to see them in Australia, they all understand the India opportunity and they're all interested in it. And when particular projects/prospects come up, they will see how they fit in terms of their global asset allocations," he added.

Mr. Green said, the government was not directly involved in these decisions as these are big institutions that can make their own judgments. "We do identify that India has a lot of growth prospects. Look, there is a lot of reasons, pro and con, why Australian pension funds would think about India and need to make qualified judgments. But the one thing I would say to you is that what we are seeking is an even playing field for Australian pension funds."

Central banks to raise gold reserves over one year: WGC

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

World Gold Council's (WGC) 2026 Central Bank Gold Reserves (CBGR) survey indicate that the central banks around the world would accumulate more gold in the future.

This means the price of the yellow metal will remain high in the future impacting retail customers. Indian gold prices had risen by about 40% in 12 months primarily on central banks' buying and rupee's depreciation against U.S. dollar, the determining currency of gold price.

As per the survey central banks "remain very positive on gold, highlighting its significance amid a volatile geopolitical and economic environment."

Central banks accumulated 1,000 tonne gold over 4 years.

The survey shows a continuation of the trend uncovered in previous years: central banks see gold making up a growing share of reserve portfolios.

Doubling purchases

Central banks have accumulated an average of 1,000 tonne of gold over the past four years, which is significantly higher from the 500 tonne average over the preceding decade.

"This marked acceleration in the pace of accumulation occurred against a backdrop of geopolitical and economic uncertainty, which clouded the outlook for reserve managers," WGC said in the foreword of the Survey.

In India the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) was seen aggressively expanding its gold reserves between FY24 and FY25. Total reserves grew from 822.1 tonne in FY24 to 879.58 tonnes by end FY25 and rose marginally to 880.52 tonne in FY26. The survey was conducted between February 5 and May 19 with the majority of responses coming in after the West Asia conflict began.

U.P., Gujarat, Jharkhand log FY25 revenue surplus: CAG

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Manipur and 9 other States recorded surplus revenue in 2024-25, while the remaining 15 States had a deficit.

Eighteen States targeted revenue surplus, three States targeted revenue deficit and seven targeted zero revenue deficit in FY 2024-25, according to a report on 'State Finances 2024-25' released by Comptroller and Auditor General of India K. Sanjay Murthy on Tuesday.

"In FY 2024-25, 15 States were revenue-deficient while the rest 13 States were revenue surplus," the report said.

A SWEET TREAT FOR YOUNG MINDS!
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Special issue
3rd July 2026
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What are the different types of chocolate
Data cruncher: Chocolates in numbers
Chocolates in books and movies
Children's contributions: A visit to chocolate land
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SYDNEY

U.S. military to build war-ready stockpile in Australia: documents

AFP

The U.S. military is planning a permanent war-ready weapons stockpile for its Marine Corps on Australia's southeast coast beyond the range of most Chinese missiles, tender documents show. The development of the stockpile comes as the U.S. is keen to leverage the continent's strategic location in South Pacific, analysts said. AFP

EVIAN-LES-BAINS

At G7, Trump signals swift return of sanctions on Russian oil shipments

AFP

The U.S. could soon reimpose sanctions on Russian oil shipments after President Donald Trump and fellow leaders at the G7 summit moved on Tuesday to put the war in Ukraine back on top of their agenda. Mr. Trump said the sanctions on Russia can go back in place as more oil moves through the Strait of Hormuz. AP

MOSCOW

Russian warship fires 'warning shots' at British yacht in Channel

REUTERS

Russia said on Tuesday that one of its warships had fired warning shots at a British-flagged yacht in the English Channel after it made a "dangerous approach". "In order to attract the attention of the yacht's crew, signal flares were fired and audible signals were sounded," the Russian Defence Ministry said in a statement. AFP

COLOMBO

Former Sri Lankan President moves court to prevent arrest

REUTERS

Former Sri Lanka President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on Tuesday filed a petition in a court to prevent his arrest in connection with the Easter Sunday attacks. Mr. Rajapaksa was slapped with a foreign travel ban by the courts in March, following the arrest of former state intelligence chief Suresh Sallay. PTI

'Israel should withdraw from Lebanon before deal'

Associated Press
DUBAI

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on Tuesday that the tentative deal to end the war with the United States would require Israel to withdraw from Lebanon – a condition Israel has already rejected and that could sink the agreement, leading to the resumption of all-out war.

"Without the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the territories they occupied during this war, the war has not fully come to an end," Araghchi said.

A U.S. official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss outlines of the agreement, has said the deal did not call for an Israeli withdrawal.

'Syria will do the job with Hezbollah if Israel is unable'

Israeli campaign against Iran-backed militant group was causing too many civilian casualties, says Trump; the U.S. President also urges Netanyahu to be 'more responsible' with respect to Lebanon

Agence France-Presse
EVIAN

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Tuesday he had suggested to Israel that Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa should deal with Lebanon's Tehran-backed Hezbollah militia as the Israeli campaign was causing too many casualties.

Praising Mr. Sharaa as doing an "amazing job", Mr. Trump said at a G7 summit: "If Israel can't do the job [against Hezbollah] without killing everyone else, then he (Sharaa) will do the job. Syria will do the job." Mr. Sharaa "is very good with Hezbollah, does not like them", Mr. Trump said, adding that the Syrian leader, an ex-jihadist who came to power after the fall of Bashar al-Assad, is "no boy scout". Israel "is fighting Hezbollah too long and too many people are being killed," he said.

U.S. President Donald Trump speaks on the sidelines of the G7 summit, in Evian-les-Bains, France, on Tuesday. REUTERS

"I suggested to Israel to let Syria take care of Hezbollah as, to be honest with you, I think they would do a better job," Mr. Trump said.

Following reports that his relationship with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was in decline, Mr. Trump said "Bibi (Netanyahu) has to be more responsible with respect to Lebanon."

"I am not happy with the way Israel had handled themselves with Lebanon and Hezbollah. They should have been able to do the job faster," Mr. Trump said.

Mr. Trump also said that an interim deal with Iran makes clear that Tehran would never be allowed to develop a nuclear weapon.

Ukrainian drone sets oil refinery on fire in Moscow

Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

A drone hit a major oil refinery just outside Moscow on Tuesday, triggering a fire and causing damage, Russian authorities said, as Ukraine claimed the attack was retribution for Russia's own strikes.

The strike comes a day after Ukraine said Moscow fired more than 600 drones and 70 missiles across the country, killing at least 11 people and damaging the site of a UNESCO-listed Orthodox monastery in Kyiv.

"Over the past 24 hours, enemy drone attacks on Moscow have continued. One of the drones damaged a Moscow oil refinery facility. There were no casualties," Moscow Mayor Sergey Sobyanin said on Russia's state-run Max platform.

Flames and smoke rise from a facility at an oil refinery following a Ukrainian drone attack, in Moscow, Russia, on Tuesday. REUTERS

According to Mr. Sobyanin, 60 drones launched at Moscow have been intercepted on Tuesday, in what the *TASS* state news agency called one of the largest barrages targeting the Russian capital this year.

The southeastern Kapotnya area of the capital where the refinery – owned by the Gazprom energy giant – is located was closed to traffic, local authorities said.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Kyiv was behind the strike. "This time, Moscow felt the reach of Ukraine's long-range capabilities."

India at the receiving end of American unilateralism as ties turn taxing

NEWS ANALYSIS

Varghese K. George

Countries that partnered with the U.S. over the decades subordinated their strategic autonomy, and even national sovereignty, for the benefits that came with it. In its America First era under Donald J. Trump, partners of the U.S. are being asked to bend according to U.S. priorities, but not necessarily with any accompanying benefits. For India, this approach manifested in two developments in quick succession in recent days: the U.S. extended export controls on AI technologies; and it made clear that it cared little for Indian concerns while waging its arbitrary war on Iran along with Israel.

Countries that signed up at various levels of cooperation with the U.S. got, in return for compromising their strategic autonomy, a security umbrella; access to capital, technology, and global markets; and U.S. protection in international bodies.

Two arguments

There was an ideological and moral argument that the U.S. held in support of its own dominant role in world affairs, that it helped promote a combination of electoral democracy and market economics.

The democracy and free market argument has always been weak, as U.S. alliances with Gulf countries and Pakistan show. The U.S. leadership of the global commons advanced American interests but also created stability in the international order. The moral claims of the market-democracy duet have weakened, and even within the U.S. and all advanced economies, there is a widening gap between what the model promised and what it delivered.

America First formally abandoned that ideological facade and announced to the world that all that mattered to the U.S. was its own supremacy and dominance.

The isolationism associated with America First politics is valid only in its withdrawal from international commitments – for instance in tackling global crises such as pandemics or climate change. Its more consequential manifestation is the assertion of American dominance without hegemony. The statement by Secretary of State Marco Rubio dismissing Indian concerns over the killing of Indian seafarers in the Strait of Hormuz is a stark demonstration of this approach.

Difficult choice: What is on offer now is a partnership that is costly to maintain and costly to leave. AP

Opponents of India's strategic autonomy always pointed to the benefits of coming under the U.S. umbrella, arguing that the gains would justify even a significant surrender of autonomy. America First has removed the fig leaf of such claims and states it upfront: demanding subordination without any commensurate advantage.

Even the fable of the American security umbrella, for countries that counted on it, is now turning not merely useless but counterproductive, as it is for the Gulf countries.

What makes America First distinct from conventional U.S. foreign policy is the formal denunciation of any hegemonic veneer and the unfiltered articulation of dominance – power exercised without the obligation of doing good. The notion of exceptionalism and the willingness to assert its own supremacy at all costs has always been a matter of political consensus in the U.S..

The bitter domestic battle for power masks this consensus, but on questions of using technology, trade, and military means to control the world, Democrats and Republicans, Trumpers and non-Trumpers alike, all seem to agree. What American partners are encountering is a largely bipartisan reality: as the market-democracy compact loses its persuasive power, sheer power takes centre stage in America's global posture.

India is not particularly unique in being at the receiving end of American unilateralism while trying to keep a straight face as its partner. Closer European allies such as Germany have, in recent years, been forced to completely surrender their strategic autonomy to the swinging moods of the U.S. under Joseph Biden and Donald Trump.

The old bargain was friendship with benefits, as the title of Seema Sirohi's book on India-U.S. relations suggests.

What is on offer now is a partnership that is costly to maintain and costly to leave – like a bad marriage. India's strategic autonomy was never mere ideology, as its detractors have argued over the decades. It was a considered assessment of a world where great powers pursue their own interests relentlessly, and often at the cost of their partners.

The case against autonomy has been progressively weakened by the evidence. America First has completed the argument – not by turning U.S. foreign policy on its head, but by removing the filter through which it was previously communicated. India should open its eyes to this reality. Strategic autonomy is not ideology, but a matter of elementary realism.

Xi backs Myanmar's Min, seeks advancing strategic projects

Press Trust of India
BEIJING

Xi Jinping

Chinese President Xi Jinping has expressed support for the recently elected Myanmar counterpart Min Aung Hlaing, who is battling rebels at home, and called for advancing safe construction of various China-funded strategic projects.

China places ties with Myanmar as a priority in neighbourhood diplomacy, Mr. Xi told Mr. Min during their talks on Tuesday. Mr. Min arrived here on Monday for a five-day visit.

China supports the new Myanmar government in coordinating development and security imperatives to find a correct path of development that suits its national conditions and wins popular support, Mr. Xi told Mr. Min after a guard honour ceremony.

As Myanmar's neighbour with the longest shared border, China is a trustworthy friend and partner, Mr. Xi said.

Eight died in B-52 bomber crash at air base in U.S.

Associated Press
LOS ANGELES

A B-52 bomber crashed shortly after take-off at a U.S. Air Force base in Southern California's Mojave Desert and burst into flames on Monday, killing all eight persons aboard, military officials said.

Those on the B-52 included government contractors and uniformed military. Aircraft manufacturer Boeing confirmed on Monday evening that two of its employees were on board.

It was not immediately clear what caused the crash, and it could take up to six months to complete a probe, official said.

By e-Despatch / By e-Mail : E-mail : serwcirclesbp@yahoo.com

ଓଡିଶା ସରକାର
ମୁଖ୍ୟ ନିର୍ମାଣ ଯନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ
ଗ୍ରାମ୍ୟ ନିର୍ମାଣ ମଣ୍ଡଳ, ସମ୍ବଲପୁର

Office order No. 2855 // Dated. 10.06.2026

1st Corrigendum to Bid Identification No. Road Tender Online RWCSBP-05/2026-27

Following modifications are hereby made to the notice inviting tender vide this office Bid ID No. Road Tender Online RWCSBP-05/2026-27 for NIT Sl.No. 1,2,4,10,20 & 22 .

1. The availability of tender online for bidding may be read as 10.06.2026 from 11.00 AM to 23.06.2026 up to 5.00PM instead of from 28.05.2026 from 11.00 AM to 16.06.2026 up to 5.00 PM.
2. The last date & time for seeking clarification may be read as 20.06.2026 up to 5.00 PM instead of 12.06.2026 up to 5.00 PM.
3. The date & time of technical opening bid may be read as 24.06.2026 at 11.00 AM instead of 17.06.2026 at 11.00 AM.

All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Sambalpur.

25001/402/2627 OIPR-25001/25091/1/26-27/0015

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OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (CIVIL), IDCO, IDCO TOWER, BHUBANESWAR
Bid Identification No.Civil/EST/10/2026-27 : TCN No.15419, Dt.30.05.2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER UNDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

1. Name of the Work : Construction of Block level Stadium (with Indoor Hall) in Kolabira Block under Jharsuguda District.
2. Value of the Work : Rs.1473.23 lakhs
3. Period of completion : 12 (Twelve) Calendar Months
4. Availability of tender online for Bidding :
i. Start Date : 18:00 Hours of dt.20.06.2026
ii. End Date : 17:00 Hours of dt.06.07.2026
iii. Opening date : 11.30 Hours of dt.07.07.2026.

Tender details can be seen from the e-procurement portal: www.tendersorissa.gov.in. Corrigendum or Addendum if any will not be published in newspapers and can be seen in **e-procurement portal** as well as in **IDCO website.**

Chief General Manager (Civil) IDCO, Bhubaneswar

4001/152/2627 OIPR-4001/4075/1/26-27/0048

ODISHA JOINT ENTRANCE EXAMINATION - 2026 (OJEE - 2026)
PUBLIC NOTICE REGARDING OJEE WEB COUNSELLING FOR 2026-27

No: OJEE/260 Date : 16.06.2026

This is for the information of all concerned that OJEE Web-Based Counselling Process for **B.Tech / B.Arch / B.Plan / B.CAT and Integrated M.Sc. Programmes** offered by different State Universities, Government and Private colleges will be going to start from **18th June, 2026 (Thursday)**.

Interested candidates having valid JEEMAIN 2026/OJEE 2026 Rank as applicable are advised to visit OJEE websites (**www.ojee.nic.in**) and see the detail **Tentative Counselling Schedule** for all above mentioned Programmes/ courses.

They are further advised to carefully go through the documents, **"Counselling Brochure" and "Step-by-Step Procedure"**, available in the website to get detailed information about the entire counselling process, eligibility criteria and reservation conditions.

All Candidates are also herby informed that be in touch with the website for any updated notifications.

Sd/-
Chairman, OJEE, ODISHA

14001/49/2627 OIPR-14001/14020/1/26-27/0002

PROUD MOMENT

Sarpreet is first player of Indian origin to start a FIFA WC match

GETTY IMAGES

New Zealand attacking midfielder Sarpreet Singh became the first footballer of Indian origin to start a FIFA World Cup match in his team's 2-2 draw against Iran on Monday. Born in Auckland to Punjabi parents, the 27-year-old was named in the starting XI by coach Darren Bazeley and was substituted only in the 90th minute.

CHURNING

Tunisia fires coach Lamouchi, announces Renard's appointment

AFP

Tunisia has fired coach Sabri Lamouchi after being thrashed 5-1 by Sweden in its first match at the World Cup and appointed French coach Herve Renard, the Tunisian football federation posted on its social media on Tuesday. Renard has won the Africa Cup of Nations with Zambia and the Ivory Coast.

LAST-HOUR CHANGE

England replaces injured defender Livramento with Chalobah

REUTERS

England defender Tino Livramento has been ruled out of the FIFA World Cup 2026 after suffering a calf injury and has been replaced by Trevoh Chalobah on the eve of the team's opening match against Croatia. The Newcastle right-back, 23, sustained the injury during a training session at the team's Kansas City base on Sunday.

DIFFERENT RULES

Iran is most oppressed team in the whole World Cup, says coach

AP

They didn't give us time to recover. After the game [against New Zealand], they asked us to leave immediately. It's important for us to have time for recovery, but we were asked to get on a plane [from LA] and return to our camp in Tijuana... I think our team is perhaps the most oppressed in the World Cup — Iran coach Amir Ghalenoei.

India looks to iron out batting flaws as it faces the Dutch

T20 WORLD CUP

P.K. Ajith Kumar
LEEDS

> The rise of Indian women's cricket over the years has been an inspiration. We've seen that progression through the four years of the WPL and [them] winning the first World Cup last year. It is an unbelievable chance to play against India
>
> **NEIL MACRAE**
> The Netherlands coach

Headingley has a history of producing humdingers.

It was here that England defeated Australia by one wicket in the third Test of the 2019 Ashes. A Ben Stokes miracle gave cricket one of its greatest matches. But the 1981 Ashes Test -- thanks to Ian Botham's century, following on, and Bob Willis' fiery fast bowling - remains even more famous.

Though nobody quite expects a finish like that on Wednesday, when India takes on the Netherlands in the Women's T20 World Cup, the players are sure to cherish their experience of playing at this fabled venue: this is only the second Women's T20I here. The seamers on either side would be particularly keen to see how the ball behaves on the ground where the bowlers of their ilk have had a lot of success in the past, because of the overhead conditions, though recently runs have flowed freer.

The Women in Blue had arrived in England as one of the tournament's strong favourites, and they justified the billing with their comprehensive victory against Pakistan at Edgbaston on Sunday. Though Smriti Mandhana's return to form must have given some relief to the team management, and Harmanpreet Kaur also played alongside her sensibly to overcome the loss of two early wickets, it wasn't the most of convincing of batting performances until Richa Ghosh's visit to the crease, that is.

Her 17-ball 34 made all the difference in the end. It was only in the last warm-up match before the tournament got underway, against England, that the wicketkeeper-batter finally found her touch. India's fortunes could depend on her clean hitting.

Bharti Fulmali, who was also expected to do something similar, lasted just three balls against Pakistan. It would be interesting to see if India, in this early stage of the tournament, tries out Yastika Bhatia, who has the technique to stabilise an innings if required and has the also shots to make use of the PowerPlay.

Deepti Sharma, now T20I's leading bowler of all time, will like to spearhead the Indian attack from where she left off at Birmingham, which is just a two-hours-and-a-half drive away through some scenic places. It will be interesting to see how the inexperienced Netherlands side takes on the seasoned off-spinner and other bowlers.

The Dutch women could do with another fine knock from their captain Babette de Leede, whose 50 helped them make a match of it against Bangladesh on their World Cup debut.

Next task: Harmanpreet will be keen to let the bat do the talking against the Netherlands. GETTY IMAGES

Agile and alert: Saudi Arabia's Al-Owais comes up with an acrobatic save. AFP

Uruguay settles for a draw against a plucky Saudi Arabian outfit

Al-Amri gives the Saudis a surprise lead near the end of the first half only for Araujo to equalise 10 minutes from time for the South Americans

FIFA WORLD CUP

Agence France-Presse
MIAMI

Uruguay dominated but had to settle for a 1-1 draw against Saudi Arabia in the sweltering heat of Miami on Monday to leave an intriguing Group H wide open.

The stalemate came hours after one of the biggest shocks in World Cup history when European champion Spain was held goalless by debutant Cape Verde in the same group.

After the first round of games in the pool, all four teams have one point.

Defender Abdulelah Al-Amri gave the Saudis a surprise lead near the end of the first half only for Uruguay's second-half pressure to pay off with 10 minutes left through Maxi Araujo.

Marcelo Bielsa's Uruguay racked up 22 shots in the second period but the Saudi defence and goalkeeper Mohammed Al-Owais doggedly held firm.

"We should have won," said the colourful Argentine Bielsa.

After a toothless first period, Bielsa had seen enough, dragging off defender Matias Vina and striker Darwin Nunez.

The double substitution sprung Uruguay into action.

On the hour, midfielder Manuel Ugarte pinged the ball against the foot of the Saudi post from well outside the box.

The pressure finally told late on when Al-Owais made a mess of a routine stop and Araujo gobbled up the rebound.

There looked to be only one winner after that, but Saudi Arabia just about held on for a vital point.

THE RESULTS

Group H: Saudi Arabia 1 (Amri 41) drew with Uruguay 1 (Araujo 80).
Group G: Belgium 1 (Hany 66-og) drew with Egypt 1 (Ashour 19); Iran 2 (Rezaeian 32, Mohebbi 64) drew with New Zealand 2 (Just 7, 54).

Iran surmounts multiple obstacles to hold New Zealand

Agence France-Presse
LOS ANGELES

Iran twice battled back for a 2-2 draw with New Zealand on Monday in its frenetic opening match of a World Cup campaign that has been utterly overshadowed by war, politics and protests.

Iran twice found itself trailing to the tournament's lowest-ranked team, thanks to goals from New Zealand striker Elijah Just. But equalisers from Ramin Rezaeian and Mohammad Mohebi spared Team Melli any further blushes.

Coach Amir Ghalenoei had insisted his players would not "pay attention to any of the hype."

But his side was stunned by an early New Zealand goal on the counter created by veteran striker Chris Wood. Collecting a long pass in the seventh minute, Wood expertly held up the ball, turned and played in the onrushing Elijah Just.

After a sharp exchange of passes with Sarpreet Singh and Wood, Just leapt and smashed a volley into the net. Iran's equaliser came in the 32rd minute with a poacher's finish from Rezaeian.

New Zealand retook the lead in the 55th minute. Just bagged a brace via a crisp one-two with Wood, after Liberato Cacace had stolen the ball on the halfway line. But it was again pegged back nine minutes later, as Mohebi's leaping header from Rezaeian's superb cross glanced off the inside post.

Thursday's matches

GROUP L
England vs. **Croatia**, 1.30 a.m.
Ghana vs. **Panama**, 4.30 a.m.
GROUP K
Uzbekistan vs. **Colombia**, 7.30 a.m.
GROUP A
Czechia vs. **South Africa**, 9.30 p.m.

The day and time(s) pertain to India

Neatly done: Rezaeian sneaks in between the Kiwi defence and 'keeper for Iran's first goal. AP

On cloud nine: Nilakshika took Sri Lanka over the line. GETTY IMAGES

Nilakshika guides SL to historic win over NZ

Associated Press
SOUTHAMPTON

Sri Lanka crippled New Zealand's title defence at the Women's Twenty20 World Cup with a five-wicket victory in Group B on Tuesday.

Sri Lanka beat New Zealand for the first time in a World Cup after Nilakshika Silva and Kaushini Nuthyangana combined for an unbeaten 48 runs off 28 balls to reach the 151-run target with two balls remaining at the Rose Bowl.

New Zealand has lost its first two group matches. Only one team in tournament history has advanced to the semifinals with two defeats – South Africa at home in 2023.

New Zealand was tainted again by dropped catches; six in the opening loss to the West Indies and three more against Sri Lanka, two of them key.

Sri Lanka captain Chamari Athapaththu was put down on six and made 27 to start its charge in the PowerPlay, and Nilakshika was dropped on one and made an unbeaten 54 (37b, 5x4, 1x6).

The scores: New Zealand 150/6 in 20 overs (Amelia Kerr 45, Sophie Devine 45, Kavisha Dilhari 2/35) lost to Sri Lanka 153/5 in 19.4 overs (Nilakshika Silva 54 n.o., Nensi Patel 2/23).
Toss: NZ; **PoM:** Nilakshika.

Stat attack

1 Despite having just 26% possession against Spain, Cape Verde committed only one foul, the fewest by a team in a match since 1966

1 Al-Amri is the first Saudi Arabian defender to score at the World Cup

1 **Rezaeian** is the first Iranian to score and assist in the same World Cup game. He is also the first Iranian to find the target in two different campaigns

3 Hany's own goal (Egypt vs. Belgium) was the third in this year's competition, one more than in the whole of the 2022 extravaganza

4 Renard is the fourth manager (after Milutinovic, Parreira and Hiddink) to manage at least three different teams in three consecutive World Cups

6 Gavi is the sixth player to figure in two editions by the age of 21 (after Pele, Whiteside, Song, Olembe and Eto'o)

7 Vozinha's saves against Spain, the second most by a goalkeeper aged 40 or older (since 1966)

9 Saudi Arabia's Al-Owais has made the most saves in a game in this World Cup

31y 26d Cape Verde's is the oldest (by average age) this year, and the oldest by a team on its debut

34 Birthday boy Salah has become the oldest African to provide an assist at the World Cup since Milla (Cameroon vs. England, 1990)

39y 364d Muslera is the oldest to appear for Uruguay at the global spectacle, surpassing Godin (36y 285d, 2022)

40y 12d Vozinha is the oldest custodian to keep a clean sheet on his World Cup debut

68 Four draws in a day happened for the first time in 68 years at the World Cup. Incidentally, it was on the same date (June 15) in 1958

REZAEIAN

Compiled by **Anirudh Velamuri**

Own goal saves Belgium's blushes

Agence France-Presse
SEATTLE

Belgium and Egypt drew 1-1 in their World Cup opener on Monday after a second-half Belgian equaliser spoiled Mohamed Salah's 34th birthday.

Emam Ashour opened the scoring early in the first half, before Romelu Lukaku came off the bench after the hour to force Egypt's Mohamed Hany into an own goal.

With the draw, seven-time Africa Cup of Nations champion Egypt's wait for a first victory at a World Cup goes on.

This is its fourth participation in the global showpiece and with Group G fixtures to come against Iran and New Zealand, it will hope to break that hoodoo in North America.

For Belgium, this tournament is likely the last chance for the remnants of its golden generation to better its third-placed finish in Russia eight years ago and finally win silverware.

Richa attributes her skill development to WPL

P.K. Ajith Kumar
LEEDS

There is nothing quite like learning from the best. Richa Ghosh would testify.

India's finisher said on Tuesday playing alongside the likes of Ellyse Perry and Sophie Devine at the WPL helped her develop as one of the most explosive batters in women's cricket.

"The WPL has helped me a lot because I have played along with domestic and international players," said Richa on the eve of India's match against the Netherlands at the Women's T20 World Cup here. "In my team (Royal Challengers Bengaluru), Perry was there; Devine was there; and Smriti Mandhana has been the captain."

Richa, whose stunning onslaught at the death took India to a match-winning total against Pakistan in Birmingham in her side's opening fixture, said she watched how the big stars in her team batted at the WPL.

"That helped me find out what I could do for my team," she said.

"Perry is a good middle-order batter and I learned from her how to finish it off. And Devine showed how to bat in the PowerPlay."

Richa said her innings in the warm-up match against England gave her confidence going into tournament. "In the practice match, I had so many overs to play, and that innings made me confident.

"When I was not scoring runs, I focused on practice. Speaking to Harmanpreet Kaur and Smriti also helped".

Today's matches

Leeds, 3 p.m. IST
HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 5
Australia 5 | Bangladesh 0

Leeds, 7 p.m. IST
HEAD-TO-HEAD
India | Netherlands
First Meeting

Birmingham, 11 p.m. IST
HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 27
South Africa 15 | Pakistan 12

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 & JIOHOTSTAR

INBRIEF

Smriti Mandhana named in *TIME* magazine's list

Cricketer Smriti Mandhana has been named by *TIME* magazine among this year's 100 most influential people in sports, the only Indian to be featured on the list. *TIME*'s list of the 100 Most Influential People in Sports 2026 features athletes, coaches, advocates and investors who are "people shaping sports today". The list, headlined by American basketball legend LeBron James, includes superstars such as Lionel Messi, Carlos Alcaraz, and Victor Wembanyama among others.

Fast bowler Ashok replaces Yudhvir in India-A squad

Pacer Ashok Sharma was on Tuesday added to the India-A squad for the ongoing tri-series in Sri Lanka as a replacement for the injured Yudhvir Singh.

SRY gene test must for women to compete in 2027

The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) has said that no woman athlete shall be eligible to compete in any of its events from next year without undergoing the Sex-Determining Region Y (SRY) gene test. In order to ensure fairness, World Athletics (WA) introduced the once-in-a-lifetime test for athletes wishing to compete in the women's category at the Tokyo World Championships last year. Starting with the Federation meet in Ranchi last month, the AFI also began testing woman athletes in domestic competitions. The cost is borne by the AFI and the test is done by a recognised lab. The AFI alerted the athletes about the consequences of skipping the test this year. "With effect from next year, no athlete shall be eligible to participate in any competition organised by the AFI without undergoing the SRY gene test," said the circular.

ROUND-UP

Big win for Shlok HC

Shlok Hockey Club defeated Falcon Hockey Club 4-1 in the KSHA Super Division league here on Tuesday.

The results: Shlok HC 4 (Stephen Swami 5, 14, 22, Kartik Patare 47) bt Falcon HC 1 (Suresh 38); 5 'C' Sports Club 4 (Srirama 5, Sami Razwan 6, 20, Amit 30) bt Rainbow HC 1 (Viswa 35).

Banglore Youngsters wallops BHEL (EDN)

Bangalore Youngsters blanked BHEL (EDN) FC 7-0 in the BDFA 'C' division football league here on Tuesday.

The results: Bangalore Youngsters FC bt BHEL (EDN) FC 7-0; Reds United FC bt ISRO FC 6-0; Bangalore Boys FC drew with Tilak Memorial FC 0-0; Vinayaka FC drew with Bangalore Mars FC 0-0; IISC FC bt C2 FC 4-1; Young Gems FC bt Bagal Kunte FC 6-0; Jolly Bro FC bt Excelsior FC 2-0.

LIVE TELECAST

FIFA World Cup: Unite8 Sports 1, 2 & Z5 App, 6.30, 9.30 a.m. 10.30 p.m. 1.30 a.m. & 4.30 a.m. (Thursday)

Tri-series: Afghanistan-A vs India-A, Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 10 a.m.

India vs Afghanistan: 2nd ODI, Star Sports 2 & JioHotstar, 1.30 p.m.

Bangladesh vs Australia: 1st T20I, FanCode, 1.30 p.m.

England vs New Zealand: 2nd Test, day 1, Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 3.30 p.m.

Women's T20 World Cup: Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 3 p.m., 7 p.m. & 11 p.m.

Afghans need a collective effort to surprise Indians

The visitors will be eager to set the record straight at Ekana which has been their 'home' ground; onus on Rohit and Shreyas as the Men in Blue look to seal the series; heat could be a factor

AFGHANISTAN IN INDIA

N. Sudarshan
LUCKNOW

For Afghanistan, the Ekana Cricket Stadium is a bittersweet venue.

The ground has been one of its homes away from home, and of 16 international fixtures the arena has hosted in its short history, Afghanistan has featured in eight, three more than India.

But results haven't been fully commensurate, with the country losing all three ODIs and the one-off Test to the West Indies in an all-format series in November 2019.

It won the T20I series 2-1, and the lone 50-over victory came in the 2023 World Cup over the Netherlands. These will be the memories Afghanistan will hold on to when it meets India in the second ODI on Wednesday.

In a rain-curtailed 25-over encounter at Dharamshala, Rahmanullah Gurbaz smashed a 51-ball 102 as the visitors set a 195-run target. Shubman Gill & Co. may have chased it down for the loss of just three wickets, but it was far from a stroll in the park.

However, for Afghanistan to notch up its first-ever win over India, it needs more than just Gurbaz. Seven of its batters were dismissed for single-digit scores, something that captain Hashmatullah Shahidi pinned on "rushed" shot-making owing to the shortened nature of the game.

Training hard: Rohit will be eyeing a big knock after getting run out for 16 in the opener. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Positives

For India, pacer Gurnoor Brar and all-rounder Harsh Dubey are coming off impressive debut performances (three wickets each). Skipper Gill (84 n.o. from 66 balls) and K.L. Rahul (39 n.o. from 19) would love to extend their purple patch that has stretched across formats.

Rohit Sharma, though, is in search of better returns following a middling IPL. Shreyas Iyer, recently crowned India's new T20I captain, will be looking for some international runs too, having scored eight, three and 12 in his previous three ODI innings. It remains to be seen if India rings in the changes after just one contest and gives the Yadavs – Prince and Kuldeep – an opportunity.

Speedster Prince excelled for Lucknow Super Giants in the IPL even as his team finished rock bottom. Kuldeep is from neighbouring Kanpur. But does it count at a place where home-away boundaries are fluid?

Heat is expected to be a factor, with day-time temperatures set to touch 40 degrees. Shahidi, though, opined that international cricketers shouldn't use weather as an excuse. However, the fact is that Ekana has never organised an international fixture in the April-September window. It will be baptism by fire!

The teams (from): India: Shubman Gill (Capt.), Rohit Sharma, Shreyas Iyer (Vice-capt.), Yashasvi Jaiswal, K.L. Rahul (wk), Ishan Kishan (wk), Nitish Kumar, Washington Sundar, Kuldeep Yadav, Arshdeep Singh, Prasidh Krishna, Prince Yadav, Gurnoor Brar and Harsh Dubey.

Afghanistan: Hashmatullah Shahidi (Capt.), Rahmanullah Gurbaz (wk), Ibrahim Zadran, Sediqullah Atal, Rahmat Shah, Ikram Alikhil (wk), Mohammad Nabi, Azmatullah Omarzai, Rashid Khan, Nangyal Kharotai, AM Ghazanfar, Ziaur Rahman Sharifi, Fareed Malik, Bilal Sami and Darwish Rasooli.

Match starts at 1.30 p.m.

Harsh is one for the future: Bahutule

N. Sudarshan
LUCKNOW

Harsh claimed three for 47 on his ODI debut at Dharamshala. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

India's newly appointed spin-bowling coach Sairaj Bahutule gave Harsh Dubey the thumbs up after the left-arm tweaker's three-wicket haul on debut (three for 47) in the seven-wicket victory over Afghanistan in Dharamshala on Saturday.

"Harsh definitely has a good future," Bahutule said here on Tuesday, ahead of the second ODI. "Last game, he was under pressure after that first over (16 runs), but the way he came back [was impressive].

"Shubman [Gill] also used him very well, made the right changes at the right time, and gave him the ends which were suitable. He [Harsh] is one player for the future. He has the skills and a good temperament, and the more he plays, the more experience he'll get and enhance his skill."

With Ravindra Jadeja 37 and Axar Patel 32, India appears keen on setting in motion the process to locate the next set of left-arm spinners. Bahutule expressed confidence that Harsh would eventually look the part.

"For me, every spinner is unique. Jadeja is very experienced, and the way he's performed and contributed to Indian cricket is phenomenal.

"This is transition time for spin. Harsh and other youngsters will realise that these are big shoes to fill.

"But they have the capability and the potential. The more they will play, the more they will settle down, learn from every game and grow."

> This is transition time for spin. Harsh and other youngsters will realise that these are big shoes to fill. But they have the capability and the potential
> **BAHUTULE**

Afghanistan skipper Hashmatullah Shahidi said that the key to success on Wednesday will be in not losing wickets in a heap. In the first ODI, his side fell to 26 for three, recovered to 142 for three before being bowled out for 194.

"We should not make the same mistakes," Shahidi said. "Hopefully, we (will) have some good partnerships and no back-to-back wickets.

"The conditions will be a little bit slower, better for spin, and the weather is also hot. We will try to do our basics right and just play positive cricket".

Afghanistan stalwart Nabi's son keen to chart his own path

Shayan Acharya
DAMBULLA

Hassan. SHAYAN ACHARYA

Long before Hassan Eisakhil began making his way in cricket, people already knew his surname. As the son of Afghanistan stalwart Mohammad Nabi, that was always going to be the case.

The comparisons are inevitable, but Hassan is determined to focus on his own journey.

"When I'm playing, I don't think about being Mohammad Nabi's son," he told *The Hindu*. "I just focus on my game."

His rise has followed a familiar route for many young Afghan cricketers, through domestic and age-group cricket before earning opportunities at higher levels.

"Whenever I wear the Afghanistan jersey, it is a proud feeling," he said. "I started from domestic cricket, moved through different levels and worked my way up. The performances helped me get opportunities."

Growing up in Dubai, Hassan spent much of his childhood playing tennis-ball cricket with friends. "I started when I was around 10 years old. At that stage, I wasn't thinking about playing international cricket. I was just playing because I loved the game."

Interestingly, Nabi did not coach him during those early years. "Initially, he didn't teach me much," Hassan recalled. "He wanted me to understand my own game. Later, he started helping me with batting, fitness and training."

A naturally aggressive batter, Hassan likes to take the initiative.

"My intent has always been positive," he said.

"If the ball is in my area, I want to play my shots."

The advice he hears most from his father is about understanding situations and putting the team first.

"He always talks about the situation," Hassan said. "What does the team need at that moment?"

For now, Hassan remains focused on improving and creating his own identity in the game.

The Nabi surname may attract attention, but he knows it is performances that will ultimately define his career.

SNAPSHOTS

India beats Japan, enters semifinals

AUCKLAND: The Indian women's hockey team booked its place in the semifinals of the FIH Nations Cup with a hard-fought 2-1 victory over Japan, courtesy goals from captain Salima Tete and Lalremsiami, here on Tuesday.

With six points from two matches, India secured a spot in the last four.

The match was also a memorable occasion for midfielder Jyoti, who celebrated her 100th senior international appearance.

The result: India 2 (Salima Tete 33, Lalremsiami 49) bt Japan 1 (Ai Hiramitsu 35).

Joy unbound: India notched up its second successive win.

Astha breaks 17-year-old 200m butterfly record

AHMEDABAD: Railways swimmer Astha Choudhury clocked 2:18.37s to break the 17-year-old women's 200m butterfly record on the opening day of the National aquatics championships on Tuesday.

Vinayak Vijay (men's 200m medley, 2:04.13) and Aditi Hegde (women's 1500m freestyle, 17:20.82) rewrote two new individual records, while Karnataka women – Nina Venkatesh, Tanishi Gupta, S. Rujula, Dhinidhi Desinghu – registered 3:53.45 to shatter the two-year-old 4x100m relay.

The results (winners only): Men: 100m freestyle: Akash Mani (Kar) 50.40; **100m backstroke:** Rishabh Das (Mah) 55.44.

200m medley: Vinayak Vijay (SSCB) 2:04.13 (NMR, Old 2:04.34, Shoan Ganguly, 2025).

Women: 1500m freestyle: Aditi Hegde (Mah) 17:20.82 (NMR, Old 17:35.07, Bhavya Sachdeva, 2025).

50m breaststroke: Lineysha A.K. (Kar) 33.51; **200m butterfly:** Astha Choudhury (RSPB) 2:18.37 (NMR, Old 2:19.59, Arhatha Maghavi, 2009).

4x100m freestyle relay: Karnataka (Nina Venkatesh, Tanishi Gupta, S. Rujula, Dhinidhi Desinghu) 3:53.45 (NMR, Old 4:01.83, RSPB, 2024).

Ben Stokes, Kane Williamson and the power of the image

BETWEEN WICKETS
Suresh Menon

Two men born in New Zealand have been in the headlines recently. For one of them, Ben Stokes, born in Christchurch, the headline is his natural habitat. The other, Kane Williamson, born in Tauranga, announced his retirement in the middle of a Test series against an England side originally led by Stokes.

Williamson is one of the nicest players to have held a cricket bat, a modern icon, and possibly the greatest batter from his country. Yet, you do not retire in the middle of a series without upsetting team plans, throwing less experienced players into the cauldron, and causing some chaos. Head coach Rob Walter put it as delicately as possible: "You don't lose Kane Williamson off the team sheet and get stronger."

Still, even he bought into the prevailing talk of altruism and magnanimity saying, "That's the person that he is, and just [shows] the regard that he holds the team in to not just carry on but actually to hand the opportunity to someone else who would take his place and fill a more long-term role for this team."

How much more altruistic and magnanimous might it have been had Williamson called it a day ahead of the series (New Zealand trail 0-1) so it wouldn't throw the team into turmoil?

Wrong timing

I think it is selfish to do it the way he did. The man whose timing was impeccable, got it wrong. Perhaps he wanted to play one final Test at Lord's.

Stokes got his timing wrong too – but he was not allowed to get away with it. As in the case of Williamson, this had something to do with his public image. Stokes, who missed an Ashes series because of charges of affray (which were ultimately dismissed by an English Court), has a reputation of a player who is likely to get into trouble and as captain must be made an example of.

The details of what happened in the Chelsea night club after England had won the Lord's Test are not clear. What is known is that a rugby player threw a punch at Gus Atkinson who was with Stokes, but missed and hit a security guard instead. Neither of the England players present has been accused of getting physical.

No leeway

Stokes is paying for breaking the midnight curfew, a rule he was partly responsible for bringing into force. But England had just won a Test, there were ten days to go before the next one, and one might have expected a certain leeway.

What is it with recent English all-rounders? Ian Botham was a legendary trouble-maker. At a World Cup, a drunk Andrew Flintoff took a pedalo hoping to meet up with Botham who he thought was having a drink on a boat.

Had the roles been reversed – with Williamson breaking the curfew and Stokes announcing his retirement mid-series – it is possible that again, only one of them might have got away with it.

Not unimportant

This is not to say that team discipline is unimportant. Ironically, vice-captain Harry Brook did not automatically take over from Stokes because he too had been involved in a night club incident on the eve of a One-Day International in New Zealand. England's damage control involved bringing back Joe Root as captain to replace his successor.

England's cricket board sees merit in bringing matters of indiscipline to the public; or if it is public knowledge already, not getting into a cover-up mode. It is comforting to think – as an Indian fan told me recently – that such things do not happen in India. But of course they do.

An Indian player has written about how, spotting the manager while returning to the hotel after a night out, he pretended he was on a morning run!

Indian players were once treated like schoolboys, but now are given credit for being adults. Stories of old-timers unable to bowl because they were nursing hangovers are legion. But in today's set-up the competition for places is too severe for players to take such chances.

The lessons from the New Zealand-born is that success (and temperament) dissolves all flaws. Had England won the Ashes in Australia (they lost 1-4), Stokes may have been treated more like Williamson!